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No Agreement on IPR as Talks Continue

BEIJING (AFP) — A third day of last-ditch talks between Chinese and U.S. officials trying to avert a trade war over intellectual property rights (IPR) continued late Saturday evening with no sign of an agreement, Xinhua said.

"The two sides agreed that proceeding from safeguarding Sino-U.S. long-term interests, the two countries should solve their differences in IPR through consultations on equal footing to promote... bilateral economic and trade relations," the official news agency said.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Mubarak: Summit Will Mark the End of Arab Disputes

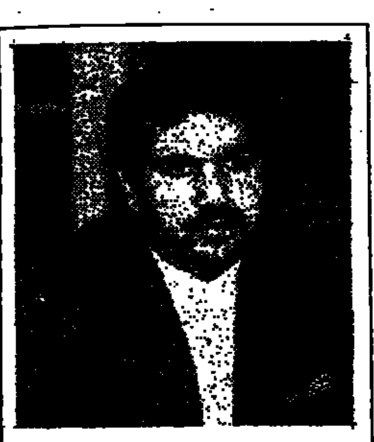
CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday Arab nations hope to end the differences between them at their upcoming summit in Cairo.

"In the summit's final statement, we want to announce to the world that we prepare our nations for a new period marked by the end of disunity and the beginning of unified Arab ranks," Mubarak said.

Mubarak made the comments at a meeting with the Executive Council of the Journalists Union, Information Minister Safwat al-Sherif told the press.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Akhoundi Stresses Appropriate Settlements for All



ANKARA (IRNA) — Iran's Minister of Housing and Urban Development Abbas Akhoundi here Friday stressed the need for international cooperation to provide appropriate settlements for all and to sustain the development of the human habitat.

The minister made the remark while addressing the Second UN Conference on Settlements (Habitat II) which opened here Friday.

Referring to international obligations on giving financial and technical assistance to developing countries, he pointed out that with the numerous economic problems faced by these countries, they could not be expected to carry out their obligations toward habitat programs.

Stating that two-third of the population growth is recorded in urban centers, he said that some 50 percent of the global population will be living in cities by the year 2000. He stressed that such a phenomenon calls for adoption of new policies.

On the urbanization of Iran, he said that during the past century, the urban population in the country rose from about one million to 28 million in 1986 and 38 million in 1996.

The urban population grew from 20 percent to 60 percent and the number of cities increased from 59 to 620, he noted.

Describing rapid urbanization in Iran as a serious problem, he said that in the next 25 years, the Iranian urban population is expected to surge from the present 38 million to about 100 million,

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Syria Massed Troops Near Border With Turkey

BEIRUT (AFP) — Syria has massed troops near the border with Turkey following reports that Ankara was behind four blasts that rocked the country in recent weeks, *Al-Hayat* daily reported Saturday.

"Syria moved around 40,000 soldiers to border areas with Turkey," said the London-based Saudi daily which is published in Beirut and other Arab capitals in a dispatch from Damascus.

Travelers arriving in Damascus from the Turkish-Syrian border spoke of tension there as well as gunfire from the Turkish side which "seems to be on a permanent state of alert," *Al-Hayat* said.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

U.S. Committing Blunder by Resorting to Threats, Blackmail



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, in a meeting with members of Islamic Coalition Society here Saturday, stressed that the Islamic Revolution, in the course of its ups and downs, proved to the world that depending on religion and trusting in God consolidates the liberating movements and makes their struggle invulnerable.

He added that the long struggle of the Iranian people against the tyranical monarchic regime in the era before the victory of the Islamic Revolution and, on a wider basis, against the global arrogance today has served as an example for other nations in the course of the history.

"It has shown that as the hostility and pressure against the Islamic Revolution increases, the resistance of people aimed at defending the achievements of their revolution also augments," the president said.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Russia at Crossroads in Yeltsin-Zyuganov Showdown

MOSCOW (AFP) — The fate of Russia hung in the balance Saturday as voters prepared to choose between President Boris Yeltsin and communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov.

Polls were to open first in the far eastern region of Chukotka late Saturday Moscow time, then move across the vast country, opening at 0400 GMT Sunday in the capital.

The first partial results will trickle in late Sunday, also from the far east, shortly after polls close in Moscow.

Most opinion polls show that Yeltsin and Zyuganov will top the list of 10 candidates on Sunday, but fail to get more than 50 percent, forcing a run-off next month, which Yeltsin is forecast to win.

Although political activity was banned Saturday to give voters a few last hours of reflection, the media capped its months-long pro-Yeltsin stand with veiled endorsements for the incumbent.

"For Russia, for peace in our home," *Vechernyaya Moskva* daily said, echoing the name of the pro-Yeltsin party "our home is Russia."



YELTSIN



ZYUGANOV

The Ort channel, which beams across Russia, aired a long documentary on the decay of coumunism by Nikita Mikhalkov, a well-known pro-Yeltsin activist and Oscar-winning director of "Burnt by the Sun," which depicts the terror of the Stalin era.

Yeltsin, 65, is widely expected to clinch the election following an energetic three-month campaign in which he has appeared at rock concerts and signed a string of populist decrees.

At a final rally in his hometown of Yekaterinburg on Friday, he told voters to "renew the choice of freedom" and promised to make a Cabinet reshuffle if reelected.

Zyuganov, 51, who has vowed to restore the Soviet Union and limit private property, said in a last-minute interview he would aim for a "fairly large" public sector if elected.

If, as expected, the election goes into a second round showdown between Yeltsin and Zyuganov, the eliminated runners-up could act as kingmakers, trading their constituents for future government posts.

57 Rebel Kurds Killed on Iraqi Border

ANKARA (AFP) — Fifty seven Kurdish rebels have been killed by the Turkish army in military operations south of Cukurca, on the border with Iraq, the Anatolia news agency reported Saturday.

One Turkish soldier died in the fighting, the news agency added.

The latest casualties bring to 146 the number of rebels from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) killed since Wednesday in the Cukurca region as a Turkish offensive against the rebels continues, according to Turkish figures.

The PKK has been leading an armed rebelling since 1984

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Kabul Voices Dismay Over Washington Meeting

KABUL (AFP) — A senior Afghan government official Saturday criticized a planned meeting of Afghan leaders in Washington, saying the sponsors had ignored some important pro-government factions.

Deputy Foreign Minister Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai described the move, which is reportedly sponsored by U.S. senator Hank Brown, as "imbalanced and regrettable" but said the Afghan government would attend the meeting.

The chairman of the U.S. Senate sub-committee for the near

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Ekeus to Travel to Baghdad With "Strong Message"

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Rolf Ekeus, whose UN team is overseeing the disarming of Iraq, travels to Baghdad next week to take a tough stand with Baghdad for barring his inspectors from military sites for four days.

Ekeus leaves on Monday armed with a "strong message," in the words of U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright.

In a formal statement agreed by all 15 members on Friday, the Security Council said it "rejects attempts by Iraq to impose conditions on the conduct of inspections by the UN special commission."

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Arms Control Pact Signed for Former Yugoslavia

FLORENCE, Italy (Reuter) — Parties to the conflicts that ravaged former Yugoslavia signed a key arms control pact on Friday after resolving differences that had blocked agreement.

The deal covering Bosnia, Croatia and rump Yugoslavia sets out quotas for arms cuts across the region and was signed by the five parties after intense negotiations on the fringes of a two-day international ministerial conference in Florence.

"I wish to express my deepest satisfaction for the signing today

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Total to Fulfil Its Obligations vis-a-vis Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Despite the U.S. announced secondary sanctions against Iran, the French Total Company will go ahead with its cooperation with Iran fulfilling its commitments, a spokesman of the company told IRNA in Paris Saturday.

The U.S. House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee on Thursday passed a bill calling for U.S. sanctions to be applied to foreign companies investing in Iranian oil.

Following the announcement of the U.S. punitive measures against the foreign companies, the Total company's spokesman stressed that on the basis of the contract concluded last July between Iran and the Total company, it is to continue its activities in Iran.

The contract not only falls within the French and European rules and regulations but also is in accordance with the international

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Greek PM Warns World Leaders Over Row With Turkey

ATHENS (Reuter) — Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis warned world leaders on Friday that Turkish territorial claims on Greek islands could destabilize a "highly explosive" region.

In a letter to Clinton, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the European Union, NATO and UN leaders, Simitis said Turkey was openly disputing the Lausanne Treaty which settled Greek-Turkish borders 70 years ago.

"Turkey openly disputes all legal documents and international treaties concerning Greek titles on Aegean islands," Simitis said in the letter which was made public.

"This creates another source of serious threats for the region's stability, a region which is highly explosive. And any further territorial

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TEHRAN TIMES

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In The Name of Allah

And from among their fathers and their descendants and their brethren, and We chose them and guided them into the right way.

(HOLY QORAN) (6:87)

OPINION

Ankara's Policies Towards Syria: Serving the Zionist Regime

Travelers arriving from the Turkish-Syrian border speak of tension as well as gunfire from the Turkish side.

Earlier reports also indicated that the Turks have been involved in undermining Syria's security through a series of bombings.

Who is responsible for this situation and what are the reasons behind it?

Although Turkey is a Muslim country, it has turned into an ally of the Muslims' arch enemy, i.e., the Zionist regime, since it signed a military cooperation agreement with Tel Aviv in February this year.

After the Zionist regime had concluded a series of peace accords with the PLO and Jordan, it failed to make Syria and Lebanon surrender to similar accords. Syria and Lebanon have genuine demands and will not give in to the Zionist pressures unless those demands are met.

This is why the Zionist regime has tried to open a new front on Syria's western borders. It succeeded in this nasty objective with the help of Ankara when it concluded the notorious military accord.

Contrary to the will of its Muslim people, Ankara is determined to move towards a stronger alliance with the U.S. even at the expense of its ties with Europe. This is why in its new mission of functioning as an agent of the Tel Aviv-Washington, Turkey does not recognize any limit.

Ankara must realize that the Zionist regime will not spare any Muslim country. If today the Zionists are targeting Syria and Lebanon, tomorrow it will be Ankara's term but in an appropriate opportunity.

Weakening Syria's political position will only serve the enemies of the Muslims. Playing into the tune of the Zionist regime may give Ankara short-term advantages. In the long-run Turkey itself will be the victim of its own policies. Unfortunately, the main victims of Ankara's policies are the common people and in the case of a crisis too the people will be the main sufferers.

Iran Expresses Concern Over Tajikistan in Message to UN Chief

UN, New York (IRNA) – Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati in a letter to the UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, expressed Islamic Republic's deep concern over the recent developments in Tajikistan.

Submitted on Friday evening by the Iranian Permanent Representative to the UN, Kamal Kharrazi, the letter stated Iran's readiness to help in conducting a new round of negotiations aimed at restoring peace and stability in this Central Asian country.

Referring to several rounds of inter-Tajik peace talks, Velayati said the agreements reached to date through the effort and support of the UN and other observer countries, were a ray of hope to the people of Tajikistan who have been longing for the establishment of a just and durable peace and stability in their country.

However, he stressed in the letter that the recent events in border areas and inside Tajikistan have become a matter of concern for those who want tranquility.

The letter was sent to coincide with the extension on Friday of the mission of the UN Security Council observers in Tajikistan for another six months.

The implementation of Tehran peace accord, the commitment of Tajik government and the opposition to establishing a durable peace in the country, the efforts toward reaching a national consensus, as well as the promotion of democracy in the Central Asian state are among the conditions required for the continuation of the UN peace mission.

Velayati noted that the Tehran cease-fire agreement of September 17, 1994, has reportedly been violated by the Tajik government and the opposition on several occasions.

In the meantime, no effective measures have been taken to date for promoting and carrying out the parts of the agreement that have not been breached, as a result of which the joint commission for monitoring the cease-fire has been rendered inactive, he said.

Iran has the strong conviction that during the transition period, the Central Asian region is in dire need of calm and stability, the foreign minister added in the letter.

He stated that in keeping with the policy of extending assistance to resolve regional crises, the Islamic Republic, as one of the countries working with the UN in Tajikistan, underscores its commitment to continuing inter-Tajik talks and fully adhering to accords already reached by both sides as these offer the only viable solution to the crisis.

He called for the UN chief's attention to the urgent need to hold inter-Tajik talks within the shortest possible time, saying it was imperative to adopt confidence-building measures.

Velayati concluded by reiterating Iran's readiness to help and cooperate with the UN and its special representative in Tajikistan for fulfilling the serious and constructive task of resolving the dispute and convening a new round of inter-Tajik talks.

Meanwhile, the permanent representative of Tehran to the UN requested that the letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Mosaffa: Islamic Revolution Paved the Way for Women's Progress

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution paved the way for Iranian women to get rid of being exploited during the deposed regime of Shah, said the Tehran University instructor, Ms. Mosaffa in bonn, Germany Wednesday.

According to IRNA, Dr. Mosaffa made the remark at the Assembly of Irano-German Friendship Association.

She said that before the Islamic Revolution the majority of Iranian women were either totally illiterate or poorly educated and therefore uninformed about their true value and their rights as humans.

Mosaffa said the Islamic Revolution has helped involve the Iranian women in many social activities out of their homes and in the sphere of politics.

German speaker in the assembly Ms. Irene Fellman who has studied Islamic sciences in universities of Beirut, Istanbul and Isfahan said the facts and figures presented by Ms. Mosaffa tallied with that which she had personally collected about the status of Iranian women in Iran.

Fellman said Iranian women had a long history of ups and downs as members of the society that ranged from their being slaves in harems, to what the Shah of Iran had promised them at the threshold of a so-called 'great civilization'.

The German scholar said before the Islamic Revolution a large portion of Iranian people were opposed to the so-called modern-day lifestyle presented by the Shah, and did not look up to the prima facie feminist but un-Islamic doctrine promoted during that regime:

She said the Iranian brand of the feminist culture introduced by the previous regime in Iran had started with the so-called 'unveiling' of the women that was the discarding of their veil upon royal decree as a move to a so-called adoption of the Western model of dressing which, she said, was presented by many families.

She said any study of the status of the Iranian women had to be undertaken with due regard to the overall cultural framework in Iran and not independent of the main cultural values ruling in that country.

Imam Khomeini, Hero of Islamic Revivalism: Indian Daily

NEW DELHI (IRNA) – The commemoration of demise anniversary of Grand Islamic Leader Ayatollah Khomeini is not an event in formality, instead, it is an event of recalling the effort by a great leader to revive Islam as a well-meaning ideology, an all-pervasive philosophy and a complete way of life.

So says *Sahafat*, a leading Urdu daily of India in its editorial titled, 'In the Memory of Ayatollah Khomeini,' adding that the late Imam's endeavor can at best be described as "the resounding victory of one man over the entire anti-Islamic world."

It is, therefore, not surprising that the West considers him the symbol of Islamic challenge to the Western civilization's more than 300-year-old domination on the globe, says the editorial.

"He did not only led the Islamic Revolution to victory in Iran, but also got the supremacy and relevance of Islam revived in the entire Islamic world. The Imam's influence is, therefore, unlimited," concludes the editorial.

Iran Committed to World Peace and Security: Iranian Ambassador

NEW DELHI (IRNA) – The Iranian Ambassador to India, Ali Reza Sheikh Attar, on Friday said that Iran is an advocate of the global peace and security and is committed to play a significant role in the attainment of this goal.

Delivering a lecture at India's National Defense College, New Delhi, before a well-attended group of Indian and foreign scholars, commanders and officers, the Iranian ambassador said that Iran's history, geography, culture and religion placed on this country the responsibility for playing an active role in regional and international affairs.

"Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy stands against any and all forms of foreign domination, fully supports regional and global peace, stability and security, and is a staunch advocate of active cooperation in all spheres with the outside world," said Sheikh Attar in his lecture titled 'The Basis of Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Policy.'

Rejecting the criticism directed towards Iran's foreign policy as being "unpredictable" and "unreliable", he said, "Ever since the victory of Islamic Revolution, Iran's relations with most of the world countries have been excellent and expanding at a tremendous pace."

He cited the examples of Iran's growing political, economic and cultural ties with its neighbors in the Persian Gulf, Central Asia; the Indian Subcontinent, a large number of European countries, Japan and China.

On Iran's relations with U.S., Sheikh Attar said that his country could not have acceptable diplomatic relations with the U.S. in view of the fact that Washington is a proponent of systematic and continuous plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran in trying to curtail the healthy growth of Islamic Revolution and prevent its success and thus contain it.

"However, the U.S. endeavors have bitterly failed. As you may have noticed the Islamic Republic of Iran commemorated the first anniversary of the imposition of U.S.-sponsored sanction against our country.

Since then Iran's foreign exchange earnings have increased, its oil exports continued to flow to yet newer destinations, the quantity of oil export to traditional buyers double folded and there has been considerable healthy economic growth during the past one year," remarked Sheikh Attar.

The Iranian diplomat added, "Iran is, however, determined not to have ties with the Zionist entity."

On Iran's commitment to regional peace and security, he said peace and stability was vital to Iran's security and economic development.

Sheikh Attar cited a clear example of Iran's current efforts to find out a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan crisis, adding that Iran has nearly succeeded in achieving this goal in Afghanistan.

On Indo-Iranian relations, he said that various ongoing ambitious economic projects between the two countries had opened yet another chapter to thousands of years of the two countries' ties.

"Iran is for a peaceful solution to the Kashmir crisis and ready to help both India and Pakistan in any form that could lead to the achievement of the desired results," added Sheikh Attar.

Al-Shaab: Bahraini Accusations Against Iran Baseless

ATHENS (IRNA) – A leading Egyptian newspaper Friday said it was not Iran but Britian which is responsible for the current unrest and politicial crisis in Bahrain, and deplored the Persian Gulf Arab states' playing the game of the West.

Bi-weekly *Al-Shaab* in an eye-opening analysis said regardless of the extent of truth of Bahrian's announcement on the assumed plot to topple the regime, there were certain points that cannot be overlooked.

Firstly, the dramatic way and the timing when Bahraini authorities announced the assumed plot although the accused were in custody since weeks ago.

The timing which coincided with the recent change of Bahrain's information minister showed that it was aimed against Iran, said the Arab paper.

Al-Shaab noted that Bahrain's announcement on the alleged Iranian plot came a day after the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) issued a statement warning Iran of the dangers of its alleged armament program.

It also coincided with the announcement by the United Arab Emirates of an alleged Iranian attempt to smuggle arms to Saudi Arabia via the UAE.

"This coordinated effort raises a number of questions. Why this escalation against Iran now?" asked *Al-Shaab*.

"Bahrain always points to Iranian role in its domestic events in an attempt by the ruling family to find a foreign rack to hang on it its corruption and its dictatorship."

"As far as Bahrain is concerned, it is clear that the British are behind what is taking place there," stressed the newspaper.

It pointed out that London was hosting a number of Bahraini opposition, knowing that the ruling regime in Bahrain was on the verge of collapse.

"When we know that the leader of the Public Order Forces in Bahrain is the British General Anderson, it is evident that whatever is taking place in Bahrain is known to the British secret services...these services play a role in the developments in Bahrain."

"Is it not General Anderson who arrested the alleged plotters and coordinated with the information minister so that the announcement of the plot would find echo in the international press?"

The paper goes on to explain the reasons behind implicating Iran.

It points out that Turkey, besides Iran and Egypt, is the third pillar in the Middle East.Turkey recently signed a military pact with Israel and is dependent on the U.S. so that secularists remain in power.

Iraq is now under pressure to reconcile with "moderate Arab states" to recognize the Zionist state. The permission by the UN to allow Iraq to sell some oil should be seen within this light. Hence, according to the paper, the only threat to the West now is Iran.

On its part, Iran is consolidating its ties with the Central Asian republics and with big powers like China and Russia.

Besides, recent elections in Iran did not lead to anarchy in Iran as London and Washington were hoping. Further, the U.S. embargo on Iran did not have any effect on its economy, added the bi-weekly.

Therefore, the West is inciting Iran's Persian Gulf neighbors against Tehran.

Noting that Persian Gulf Arab states want the West to defend them against Iran, *Al-Shaab* stressed, "But the reverse is the truth. All facts point out that the West, especially London and Washington are using the Persian Gulf countries to create pretexts to attack Iran."

British-Origin Animal Feed Imported "by the Ton"

BONN (AFP) -- Potentially BSE-tainted animal feed from Britain has been imported "by the ton" into Germany since it was banned in 1989, the weekly news magazine *Der Spiegel* said Saturday.

Citing British trade statistics, the weekly, which hits news stands on Monday, said 22.7 tons of bone meal made from offal were exported to Germany in 1995 alone.

The German federal government imposed a total ban on imports of British animal feed in 1989.

It said an inquiry carried out by the German Agriculture Ministry indicated the amount of British feed imported could be as high as 78 tons.

Britain banned the use of such feed for beef and dairy herds in 1988, but customs data unearthed by the magazine showed exports rose from 13,228 tons to 32,220 tons in the following year, most of it going to France.

The *Science Journal Nature* reported earlier this week that Britain exported 70,000 tons of the suspect feed in a three-year period after the domestic ban.

Agriculture Minister Jochen Borchert said Friday there was no danger that animal feed in Germany was contaminated by Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), which has been linked to a fatal human brain disorder.

Jordanian MPs, Trade Unionists Visit Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A large delegation of Jordanian MPs, members of political parties and trade union officials is visiting Iraq to strengthen solidarity between the two peoples, the official Iraqi press reported Saturday.

The 80-member delegation, including representatives of 17 political parties, arrived in Baghdad Friday and met Saturday with Iraq's culture and information minister, an informed Iraqi source said.

It will meet other government officials before it leaves on Tuesday, the source added.

Jordanian MP Khalil Haddadin, quoted by the daily *Al-Iraq*, said: "The delegation will express, in the name of all Jordanians, positions of principle on Arab causes in general and the Iraqi people in particular."

It is the first such delegation to visit Iraq since relations between the two neighbors soured following the defection of two sons-in-law of President Saddam Hussein to Amman in August, and their murders in February following their return to Baghdad.

Ties were further strained in March when Amman authorized U.S. combat planes to use Jordan as a base for patrolling a no-fly zone over southern Iraq, imposed by the United States, France and Britain in August 1992.

India to Provide Duty Concessions to SAARC Nations

NEW DELHI (IRNA) — India has agreed to give duty concessions to sister South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries in the sectors of fertilizers, base metals, organic and inorganic chemicals and wood products.

This means that there will be free access available to the rest of the SAARC countries of Indian market for these products.

The list of the products for concessions is to be finalized at the second round of discussions of the Inter-Governmental Group (IGG) to be held in August in Islamabad.

The opening of the fertilizers sector would benefit Pakistan and Bangladesh. The opening of the wood products sector would benefit Nepal and Bhutan and other two sectors are expected to benefit all the countries.

According to official sources here, India is expected to provide concessions in 1,200 tariff lines in these four sectors for providing duty concessions.

Officials feel that New Delhi's move will be reciprocated by the other SAARC member-countries by providing duty concessions to India in areas of its interest.

This will be the first move towards achieving the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) by the turn of the century as decided by the commerce minister of the SAARC countries.

India to Market Satellite Systems

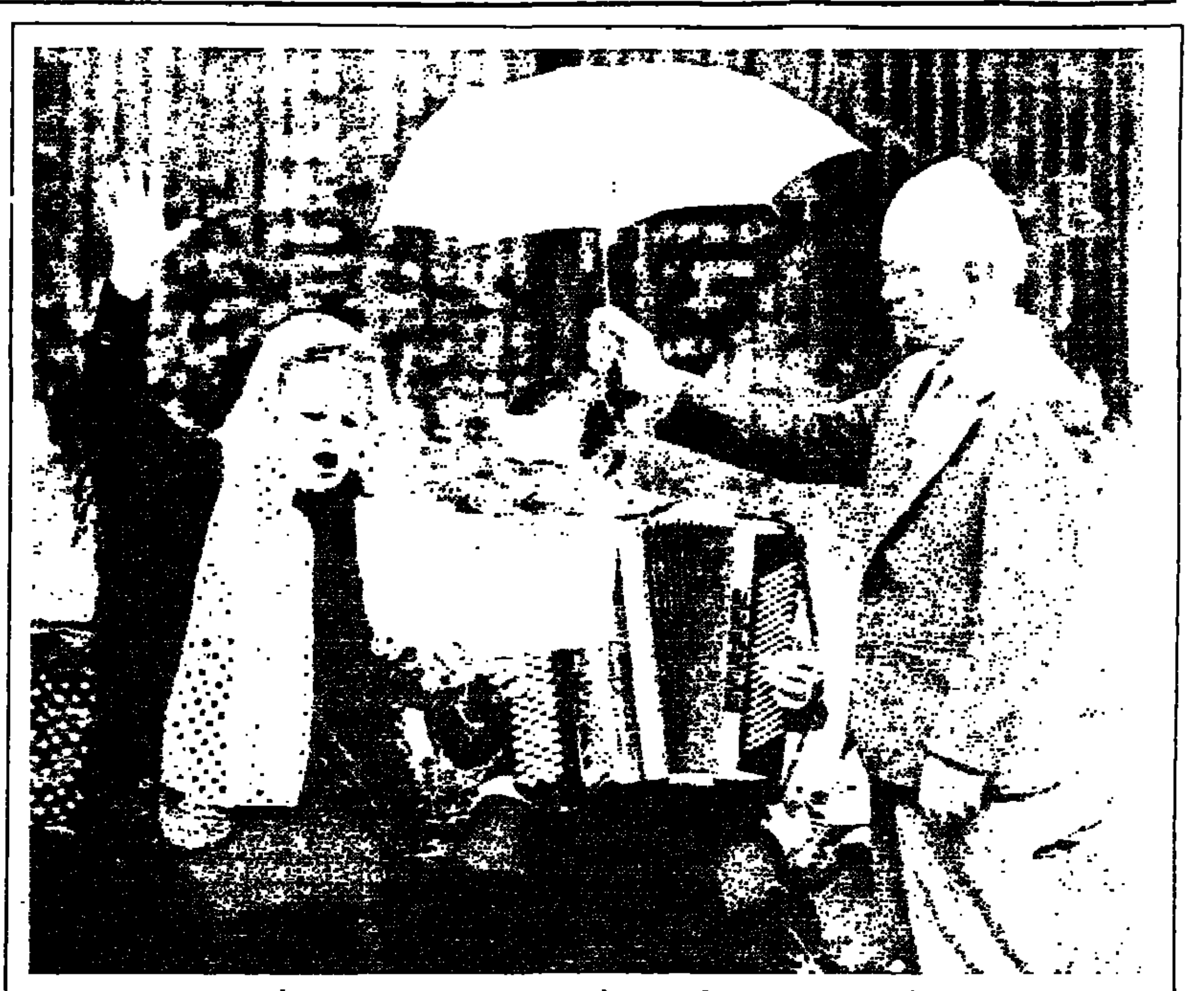
NEW DELHI (IRNA) — A leading country in space systems and ground applications, India is all set to market its satellite techniques to many countries.

The information to this effect was given by the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), K. Kasturirangan, in his address to a national workshop on remote sensing in Hyderabad, capital of the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

He said that India had already signed an agreement with the EOSAT company of the U.S. for the marketing of the data of IRS-IC to international community.

EOSAT's ground receiving station in Norman, Oklahoma, was the first one outside India to receive routinely IRS data.

10 such ground stations were expected to come up in Europe, Australia, Japan and other countries to be used by India as network for marketing the satellite imagery data, said Rangan.



MOSCOW, Russian Federation (June 14): Ignoring the rain, three Moscow residents sing Communist songs in support for Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov. Zyuganov is Yeltsin's main challenger in Sunday's elections, according to opinion polls, which forecast that the two rivals will face each other in a decisive second round runoff in early July. (AFP PHOTO)

Cypriot Minister Addresses Habitat II in Turkey

NICOSIA (IRNA-CNA-POOL) — "The emphasis of the Cyprus government housing policy today is still on the displaced population of the island," said Minister of Interior Dinos Michaelides, at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, "Habitat II" being held in Istanbul, Turkey.

Speaking before the conference's plenary, Michaelides noted that "We live in an urbanizing world, where cities around the world continue to grow, resisting all attempts to limit them. Projections for the year 2025 show that urban areas are expected to be home to more than two-thirds of the world's inhabitants."

Referring to Cyprus's experiences, Michaelides noted that the tremendous progress that Cyprus achieved after independence in 1960 came to a halt as a result of the Turkish invasion in 1974, the subsequent occupation of 37 percent of the territory by the Turkish army and the expulsion of 200,000 people from their homes.

Michaelides told the "Habitat II" that the government had to implement immediate measures to meet the socio-economic needs of the refugees, who represented one-third of the country's total population.

Housing conditions are now satisfactory for the largest part of the population, he said, with problems such as homelessness and overcrowding "completely unknown in Cyprus".

He said home ownership is estimated at 64 percent and another 20 percent live in rent-free accommodation built for the displaced and only four percent of households live in what "can be termed unsatisfactory housing".

Furthermore, most of the housing stock is of recent construction and only 13 percent was built before 1950.

However, Michaelides stressed that there "still continue to exist basic problems such as the difficulties of non-refugee households, mainly of low but also of middle incomes".

"The long-term objective of the government of Cyprus regarding the housing sector, is to create conditions for the provision of high quality housing for all Cypriots," he said.

Imam Khomeini Relief Committee Helping 250,000 Needy Azeri People

BAKU (IRNA) — Azeri Deputy Prime Minister Izat Rostamov has appreciated the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee for its humanitarian assistance to the needy families of Azerbaijan.

Rostamov, who is also head of the Azeri commission on humanitarian assistance, made the remak in a meeting with the Managing Director of the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, Bahram Kazem-Zadeh here on Saturday.

The Azeri official termed the Islamic Republic of Iran as a friendly neighboring country.

New projects to be implemented by the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee to improve living conditions of those under its protection, particularly a plan to make the committee self-sufficient, were also discussed by the two sides.

At present some 25,000 needy Azeris are under protection of the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee.

Free Bread Prices Introduced in Georgia

TBILISI (IRNA/ITAR-TASS/ACSNA) — Free bread prices have been introduced in Georgia.

Leaders of the republic stated on more than one occasion that this is a forced measure. From now on, Georgia will not receive grain and flour under humanitarian programs from Western countries. At the same time, the liberalization of bread prices is one of the most important stages in the implementation of the economic reform.

The government which has taken a number of social protection measures, specifically, has started paying compensation money to the population.

Specialists believe that during the first days after the putting into effect of this decision, the prices of bread may go up by 40 to 50 percent in Georgia.

The Georgian authorities decided to exempt from taxes and duties those commercial firms, which would import grain and flour to the republic.

British Animal Feed Makers Attack Export Claims

LONDON (AFP) — British animal feed manufacturers reacted angrily Saturday to claims that Britain exported huge amounts of potentially BSE-tainted feed at the end of the 1980s.

Manufacturers say customs records have been wrongly interpreted.

John Read, chief executive of the United Kingdom Agriculture Supply Trade Association (UKASTA), which groups 95 percent of animal feed makers, protested at what he said were "false accusations," notably in the French press.

The British Scientific Journal *Nature*, in its Thursday issue, said customs data showed British exports of the feed containing animal protein had doubled from 1989 and that most of the product had gone to France.

French newspapers reacted furiously, particularly as *nature* said the bulk of the 70,000 tons was exported to France from 1988 to 1991 — when the use of such feed for beef and dairy herds in Britain was banned.

That ban related to feed made from sheep remains after scientists said they believed Scrapie, a sheep disease, may have triggered "Mad Cow" disease in herds.

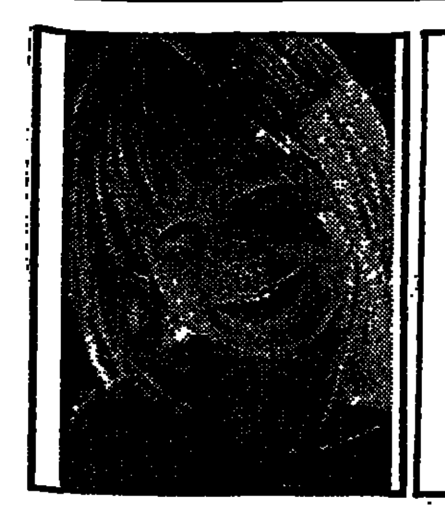
But Read said a "large proportion" of the exports noted in customs records did not relate to ready-made animal feed. He said much of it was meat and bone meal produced by renderers.

He said exporting cattle feed was not very profitable because of high transport costs, with the exception of small quantites of specialized high-level nutrients mainly for young animals.

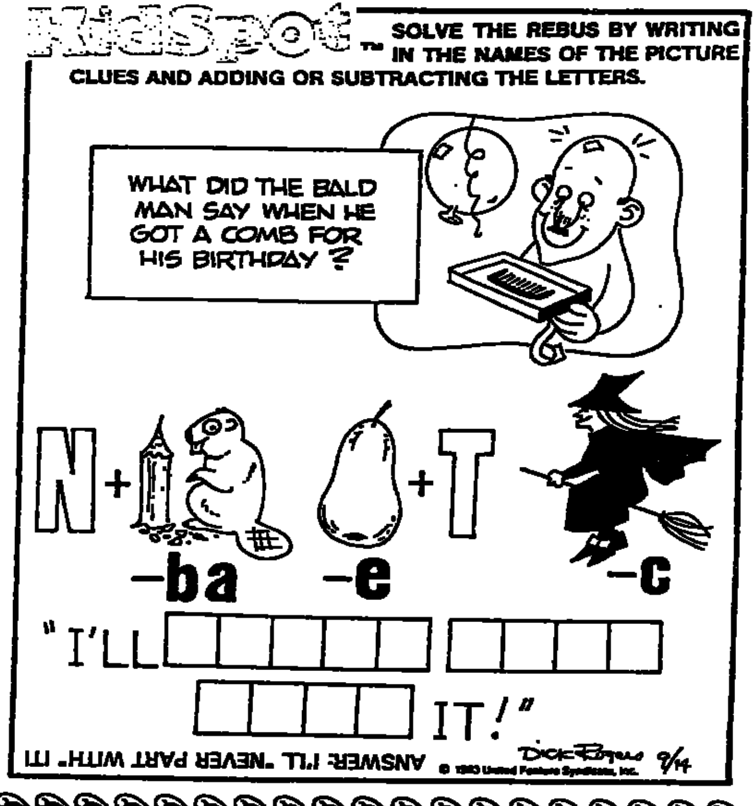
FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Saturday, June 15.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,375	1,383	2,361	2,373
Austria	schilling	163	164	280	282
Belgium	(100)francs	5,579	5,611	9,577	9,625
Canada	dollar	1,279	1,287	2,196	2,207
Denmark	krone	297	299	511	513
France	franc	338	340	581	584
Germany	mark	1,148	1,155	1,971	1,981
Holland	guilder	1,026	1,032	1,761	1,770
Italy	(100)liras	113	114	194	195
Japan	(100)yen	1,608	1,617	2,760	2,774
Sweden	krone	261	263	448	450
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,689	2,704	4,616	4,639
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015



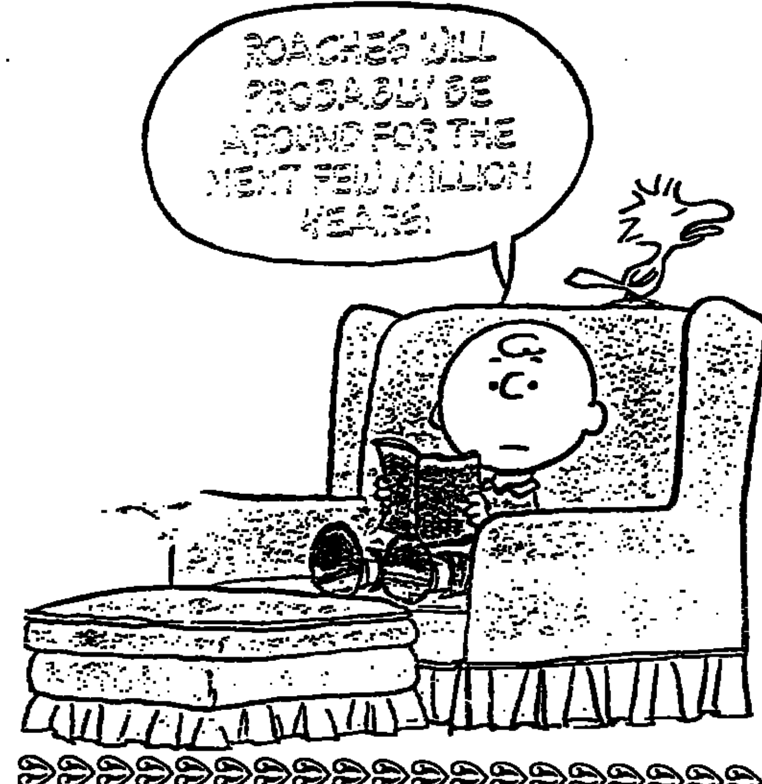
CHILDREN'S PAGE



Why Can't We Get Rid of Cockroaches?

Cockroaches are experts at staying alive. They can eat almost anything - garbage, soap, book bindings, even television wires! They have been around since the days of the dinosaurs - many millions of years. For a long time, people have been trying to kill off cockroaches because they bring germs into homes and restaurants. Although it is possible to get rid of them for a while, they usually return. Poisons kill cockroaches, but cockroach babies are often born immune to the same poison that killed their parents. This means that the babies cannot be killed by that poison.

Cockroaches like damp and dirty places best. So a clean, dry house may discourage them from coming in. However, they will probably be around somewhere for the next few million years.



Why Does Your Mouth Water When You Smell Food?

Your mouth waters because the smell of food starts your digestion going. The "water" that comes into your mouth is not really water at all. It's a digestive juice called saliva (suh-LIE-vuh). There is always some saliva in your mouth. When you eat, a lot more of it flows in to start digesting your food.

But you don't have to put food into your mouth to start the saliva flowing. Just the smell of good food is enough. In fact, you can make your mouth water wihout even seeing or smelling food.

Wait until you're very hungry and then think of your favorite food. Bet your mouth waters!

Lost-and-Found

The old farm horse was very proud of his fine straw hat. It kept the rain off his head, and the sun, too, and it gave him a splendid dressy look besides.

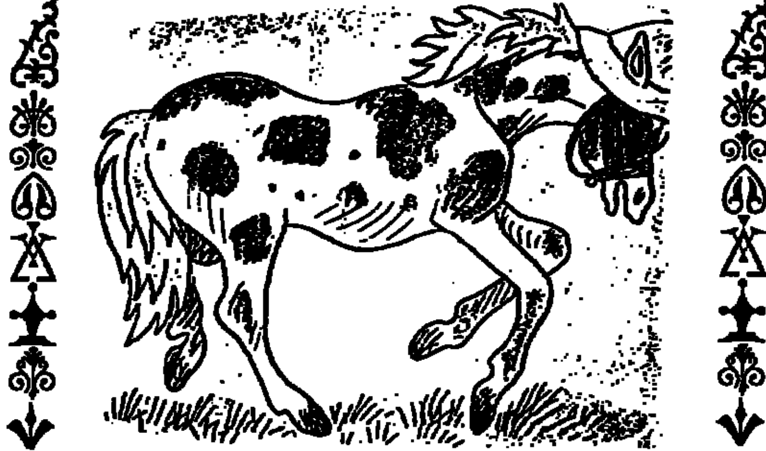
But one day, the wind whisked it up and away, and out of sight. The old farm horse walked miles and miles looking for it. He searched around the hedgerows, and in hollow trees. He asked an old water rat, who sniffed haughtily and swam away. He even asked another horse, but it was young and silly and sniggered loudly at the thought of a horse wearing a hat at all. He was away for days and days, and at last, head down and tail drooping, he gave up the search and started home.

When he trotted into his own barnyard, the speckled hen was just hopping off her nest. She strutted up and down, teaching her newly-hatched chicks to scratch for their lunch. They ate so hungrily that the old farm horse found he had a big appetite, too.

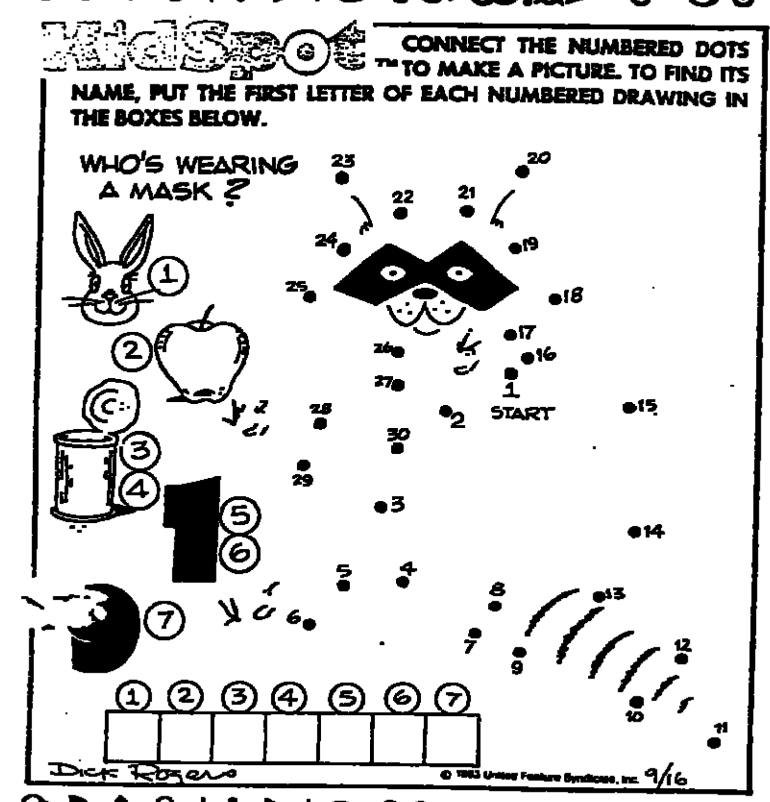
'May I eat a bit of your hay?' he asked timidly.

'Help yourself,' said the hen. 'I shan't even need a new nest now that my children have hatched.'

So the old farm horse nibbled away, and when the last tasty wisp was gone, he saw that she had made her nest in his own fine straw hat!



With a happy neigh, he flipped it up in the air, caught it deftly on his head, and went racing all around the barnyard-looking pleased and delighted, and splendidly dressy besides.



The Old Woman's Will

AN OLD woman died and when her will was read it was found that she had left 60,000 rupees to be equally divided between two fathers and their two sons. She also mentioned that each was to receive 20,000 rupees. The lawyer was puzzled and thought she had made a mistake, but when he met the beneficiaries of the will he realised that everything was in order.

What is the explanation?

ANSWER: One of the fathers is also a son. The money has to be distributed among three people: Grandfather, father and son.

Which Two Girls Are the Same Size?



Believe It or Not!

By S.H. Davoodi

KERMAN PROVINCE — The strange story of an insect was the main reason I accepted the invitation of Mehdi Baqeri, a teenager, to have a visit to Kerman Province.

The most interesting matter about this insect, *Chenzo*, was that the people of Kerman use it as a foodstuff.

Every year people go out in large masses to hunt the insect.

The food is so delicious that with a single try, one will be a permanent customer.

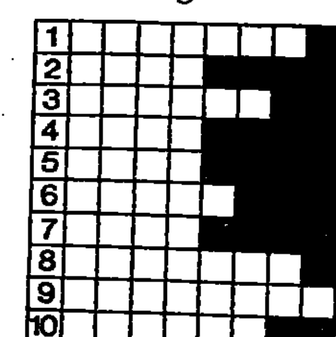
Our guide during the expedition, was Mehdi. He led us to the habitat of the insect far in the mountains.

In view of Mehdi, the *Chenzo* dish is as valuable and economical as other foods such as shrimp and snail.

The recipe, as Mehdi told us, is so simple: wash and fry the *Chenzos* in a pan. If spices are added, the food will be more delicious.

Chenzo's main habitat is the mountains of Kerman Province, where there is a clean weather and environment.

You are required to solve this puzzle by finding the missing words in the list on the right.

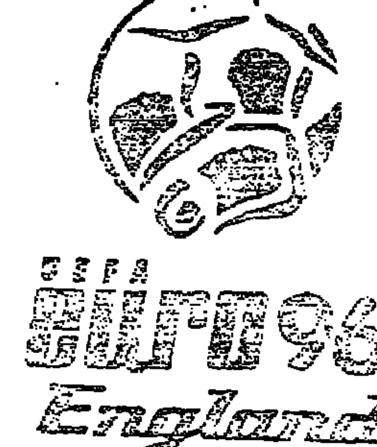


enough
dark
five
quarter
once
twenty
finished
half
twice
marries

1 When the long hand points to 3, it will be . . . past the hour.
2 When the long hand points to 6, it will be . . . past the hour.
3 When it points to 8, it will be . . . to the hour.
4 When it points to 11, it will be . . . to the hour.
5 When it has gone round the clock . . . , it will be an hour later.
6 When it has gone round . . . , it will be two hours later.
7 We shall switch the light on when it gets . . .
8 Caroline is not going to give up her job when she . . .
9 Miss Green is going to have a rest when she has . . . her work.
10 Mr Watson is going to buy a car when he has . . . money.



Euro 96 Soccer Outlook



Tehran Times Service

RMINGHAM — Jordi Cruyff stepped out of the shadow of his mous father with his first international goal in the Netherlands' 2-0 victory over Switzerland at Euro 96 on Thursday and on immediate praise from coach Guus Hiddink.

The Barcelona player, son of former Dutch star Johan Cruyff who delighted fans with his silky skills in the 1970s, scored a fine cond-half goal in only his fifth international to set the Dutch on eir way to victory.

****

IRMINGHAM — Second half goals from Jordi Cruyff and Dennis Bergkamp gave the Netherlands a 2-0 victory over plucky witzerland at Villa Park on Thursday, virtually guaranteeing em a place in the last eight of Euro 96.

The Dutch lead Group A with four points.

****

IRMINGHAM, England, (Reuter) — Dutch coach Guus Hiddink aused a major upset on Thursday when he dropped Edgar Davids from the side to face Switzerland in their Group A match t Villa Park.

Davids, who moves from Ajax to AC Milan in a $5 million deal ter the European championship, did not play particularly well in e 0-0 draw with Scotland on Monday and was criticised by Hiddink for his performance afterwards. But his omission was still a major shock.

****

NEWCASTLE, (Reuter) — It was an incident they will argue about in the Balkans as long as the Germans have contested Geoff Hurst's winning goal for England in the 1966 World Cup final.

In the 31st minute of the European Championship Group B match against Bulgaria, Romanian midfielder Dorinel Munteanu lasted a 30-metre left-foot drive against the underside of the rossbar. The ball bounced down into the goal before being crambled clear.

****

LEEDS, (Reuter) — Spaniards have cast doubts on some of coach Javier Clemente's selections for Euro 96. But no-one can argue against Fernando Hierro's place in the squad.

The tall Real Madrid central midfielder, whose surname means iron, is in his prime and hoping to put a disappointing domestic season behind him helping Spain win their second European title.

****

NEWCASTLE — Luckless Romania were effectively eliminated from the European Championship on Thursday when a solitary early goal by Hristo Stoichkov earned Bulgaria victory in their Group B showdown at St James' Park.

Stoichkov, the 1994 European player of the year, struck after only three minutes with a typical burst of pace and a forceful solo finish.

****

NEWCASTLE — Romania coach Anghel Iordanescu kept faith with his shaven-headed goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea and recalled defender Daniel Prodan after suspension for Thursday's Euro 96 Group B Balkan showdown with Bulgaria at St James' Park.

Prodan was selected instead of Gheorghe Mihali, who was one of three Romanian players to collect yellow cards during their 1-0 defeat by France last Monday evening.

Czechs Put a Dent in Italy's Euro 96 Ambitions



LIVERPOOL, United Kingdom (June 14): Italian Roberto Donadoni lies on the ground after fighting for the ball with Czech players Jiri Nemec, Miroslav Kadlec and Karel Poborski (from L to R) during their Group C match at the European Soccer Championships here. (AFP PHOTO)

LIVERPOOL, England, (Reuter) — The Czech Republic put a serious dent in Italy's Euro 96 ambitions on Friday with an eventful 2-1 victory which completely transformed the situation in Group C.

Coach Arrigo Sacchi's gameplan disappeared out of the window when defender Luigi Apolloni was sent off for receiving two yellow cards and the Czechs took maximum advantage with first-half goals from Pavel Nedved and Radek Bejbl.

Italy had the better of the second half, even with 10 men, and could have snatched a draw in injury time when Pierluigi Casiraghi blazed a great chance over the bar.

They will now have to rely on German and Russian help to reach the last eight.

If the Czechs beat Russia in their final group match next Wednesday, Italy could find themselves requiring a win over Germany the same night to avoid an early flight home.

Parma's Apolloni is the third player to be sent off at a card-strewn tournament and will be forced to sit out the crucial final group game against the Germans.

Czech supporters, subdued last weekend after watching their men beaten 2-0 by Germany in Manchester, greeted the result as if they had won the tournament.

Several Czech players hurled their shirts into the crowd, fully aware they had caused by far the biggest upset of Euro 96 so far.

England Beat Scotland 2-0

LONDON, (AFP) — England Beat Scotland 2-0 hear on Saturday in their Euro 96 Group A Match thanks to Second-half goals from Alan Shearer and Paul Gascoigne. Shearer opened the scoring with a brilliant header in the 53rd minute from a Garry Neville cross from the right. Gascoigne put it beyond doubt in the 79th minute. Scotland had a chance to level the score in the 77th minute when they won a penalty but Dave Seaman saved Gary McAllister's spot-kick.

Tsimbalar Holds Russian Key

MANCHESTER, England, (AFP) — Ilya Tsimbalar, who has already scored against the Italians, is a key player for the Russians against the Germans here on Sunday.

With already one defeat conceded, more goals from Tsimbalar would be much appreciated as the Russians try their hardest to stay in Euro 96 with a match against the favourites.

The 26-year-old midfielder is a classy player among the Russian squad who will be attempting to orchestrate chances for the strikers.

The Spartak Moscow player, formerly of Ukraine's Chernomorets Odessa, will win his 18th cap against Germany.

Portugal Wins 1-0 to Send Turkey Home



NOTINGHAM, United Kingdom (June 14): Portugal's scorer Fernando Couto (C) jubilates with Paulo Souza (# 19) and Jose Tavares (#6) after he scored the 1-0 lead for his team against TurKey during their European Soccer Championship match in Nottingham. Portugal won 1-0. (AFP PHOTO)

NTTINGHAM, England (AP) — Relentless offense finally paid off for Portugal, if only just, with a 1-0 win over Turkey Friday that brings the quarterfinals closer but sends the tournament's outsider home.

Despite the flair and skills, Portugal still needed over an hour and a fluky deflection in the Turkish defense to allow Fernando Couto a free volley on goal, and with a fierce left-foot shot from 18 yards (meters) the defender finally forced the breakthrough.

The turning point in the 65th minute was too much for the Turks and, after all that staunch defending and hard work, they just could not pick the pieces and the pace to turn their luck around.

Combined with a heartbreakingly-late loss to Croatia, Turkey is sent packing with the knowledge that a lack of finishing skills cannot be compensated by relentless work and heart. Its first international competition in 42 years proved shortlived.

Portugal now leads Group D with four points ahead of Croatia with three and Denmark with one. Turkey has none. Croatia plays Denmark Sunday to complete the second game.

Egos Upsetting the Euro 96 Party

LONDON, (AFP) — Holland's Edgar Davids is the latest in a long line of distinguished footballing egos to earn himself a place in the bigheads Hall of Fame.

Davids, tipped to be one of the stars of the championships, was put on the first flight back to Amsterdam on Friday after a petulant outburst worthy of John McEnroe at the peak of his moaning skills.

The Dutch are no strangers to internal squabbles but they are not alone in the 'problem personality' department.

Germany, the unofficial world ego champions, and Italy, the theatrical prima donnas of the world stage, have also been struggling to persuade squad members of the importance of the team over the individual.

Every team has at least one — a rampant ego who starts stamping his feet and crying for attention at the drop of his name from the team.

The 23-year-old Davids was furious after being left out of Holland's 2-0 win over Switzerland.

He responded by telling dutch newspapers that coach Guus Hiddink was "up the backside" of his Ajax colleagues Ronald de Boer and skipper Danny Blind.

Klinsmann Ready to Make His Mark on Euro 96

MANCHESTER, England, (AFP) — Experienced Jurgen Klinsmann makes his Euro 96 debut against Russia here on Sunday and is likely to make a telling impact for Germany.

His two yellow cards in the qualifying matches ruled the 31-year-old Bayern Munich striker out of the 2-0 win over the Czech Republic.

But Klinsmann, an automatic choice whenever he is fit, is almost sure to imprint his authority on the tournament.

Voted Germany's player of the tournament at the last World Cup, Klinsmann also scores goals wherever he plays in the club scene. Whether it be for Inter Milan, Monaco, Tottenham or his current side Bayern Munich, Klinsmann regularly finds the net.

Now coach Berti Vogts can relax, even though top defender Jurgen Kohler, stand-in skipper for Klinsmann, was ruled out of the remaining games after suffering ruptured knee ligaments early on against the Czechs.

Vogts recognises that striker Klinsmann is the main man and a potential matchwinner.

Klinsmann, first vilified by Tottenham fans because of his reputation for deliberately diving in the area, quickly won them over when he hit his first goal and then made a spectacular dive.

His knack of winning people over would have set him up in many walks of life — public relations, business or industry perhaps — but instead he chose to remain one of the finest strikers of his generation.

Shearer's Quest for Goal Spree

LONDON, (AFP) — England Are hoping Alan Shearer's first international goal for 21 months against Switzerland is the beginning of a Euro 96 goal spree with the Scots his next victim on Saturday.

The one consolation for England's 1-1 opening draw was seeing Shearer ending his goal drought in spectacular fashion.

The Blackburn rover star had gone into the match with the unenvious record of not scoring in an England shirt England since eptember 1994 — a total of 14 internationals.

But his nightmare ended when Paul Ince set him through in the 23rd minute and his shot left Swiss goalkeeper Marco Pascolo with no chance.

His relief at finally scoring was clearly visible and he was awarded the player of the match award afterwards.

Now his bad run has ended, coach Terry venables might witness Shearer grow up fully on the international stage.

Arms Control Pact Signed for Former Yugoslavia



FLORENCE, Italy: From L-R: Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini (president of the summit) looks the former warring parties of Bosnia, foreign minister of the Yugoslavian Federation Milan Milutinovic, Bosnia-Herzegovinan Environment Minister Ibrahim Morankic, and Bosnian Serb Republic's Foreign Minister Aleksa Buha sign the disarmament agreement at June 14 conference to review the Dayton peace accord. Others in photo are unidentified. (AFP PHOTO)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

of the agreement," said Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini, who chaired the ceremony.

The signing was shown live on closed circuit television at the conference, held to review progress in implementing the Dayton peace agreement which ended more than four years of war.

Dini said the pact would "bring stability to the region at the lowest level of armaments compatible with (the parties') security".

"The signature of this agreement will be a step forward in the consolidation of peace in the area of former Yugoslavia," he said to applause from conference delegates at the ceremony.

The deal, part of the Dayton package, was to have been signed in Oslo on Tuesday, June 11, the deadline laid down by Dayton.

Signing then was blocked by objections from Bosnia's Muslim-led government to references in the preamble to the Bosnian Serb territory of Republika Srpska. It was not immediately clear how the dispute had been settled.

The Bosnian government had sought to ensure that the territory was described as an 'entity' and not as a separate state.

The five parties to the accord are Croatia, Yugoslavia, Bosnia, Republika Srpska and the Muslim-Croat Federation in Bosnia.

Gunmen Attack Three Voting Centers in Grozny

MOSCOW (AFP) — Gunmen attacked three polling booths in the Chechen capital Grozny overnight, killing one policeman, local authorities said Saturday.

One booth was hit by a grenade and two other centers by gunfire, Interfax news agency quoted the police as saying.

The local elections, which started Friday and are to continue Sunday, were called by the Russian-installed Chechen government in defiance of a peace accord between Moscow and the Chechens which stipulated there would be no elections until troops had pulled out of the war-torn republic.

The separatists have warned they will use all means to stop the elections, while Moscow has said it has no say in the matter.

There was no major violence as the voting, to the pro-Russian local Parliament and the Russian presidential elections, got started. The government said that voting was going ahead in all regions, except the stronghold of Vedeno in the southeast.

But AFP correspondents only saw a handful of people voting, with villages and towns in much of south saying they would ignore polls until Russian troops had left. Even in Grozny, which is held by large numbers of Russian troops, polling stations were mostly empty, AFP correspondents said.

The peace accord, signed on Monday, called for a Russian troop withdrawal and a Chechen disarmament, followed by elections in which all sides could participate.

It was seen as the best chance yet to end the 18-month war, which has killed an estimated 40,000 people, and a vital step in President Boris Yeltsin's re-election campaign.

However, a failure of the two sides' military commanders to even meet to discuss the demilitarization schedule, and obstruction tactics by the Russian-instaled local government have stopped implementation of the accord in its tracks.

Omani Leader Leaves Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Sultan Qaboos of Oman ended a five-day visit here Saturday after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on preparations for an Arab summit next week in Cairo.

The Omani leader also met with Arab League Secretary Esmat Abdel Meguid to discuss efforts to overcome differences between Arab states, Egyptian officials said.

Second Ferry With 50 Passengers Sinks on Lake Victoria

DAR ES SALAAM (AFP) — A ferry with more than 50 passengers aboard sank on Lake Victoria early Wednesday, the Tanzanian Railways Corporation (TRC) reported.

There were no reports of any survivors by mid-afternoon.

The privately owned Lushamba was the second ferry to sink on the lake in less than a month.

The Tanzanian vessel was licensed to carry 50 passengers, but was in fact carrying "a little more," a TRC official told AFP.

Close to 1,000 people are estimated to have drowned when the TRC ferry Bukoba capsized and sank on Lake Victoria on May 21 near the Tanzanian town of Mwanza, on the lake's southern shore.

The Lushamba was en route to Mwanza from Maisome Island, to the west, when Mwanza police picked up a distress call at midnight, the official said.

But they were unable to provide assistance, he said, and confirmed early Wednesday afternoon that the ferry had sunk.

The Bukoba remained floating upside down for seven hours after it capsized last month, but Mwanza authorities had little equipment available to undertake a rescue effort.

Mwanza boats went out to the stricken ferry and rescued 114 survivors, but the rest drowned.

The Bukoba, licensed to carry 441 passengers, was estimated to be carrying around 1,000.

Travellers say overcrowding is a chronic problem on ferries on the lake, which is bordered by Tanzinia, Uganda and Kenya.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

TOTAL....

laws.

French has its own national rules, within which the contract has been signed, he said, adding that the bill passed by the U.S. House committee will not affect French rules.

The bill will become law after receiving final approval of the House, the U.S. Senate and President on Monday.

The Total said it makes no difference for the company whether or not the bill becomes a law.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

MUBARAK....

The summit, due to run June 22-23, also aims "to support the peace process with a clear Arab vision which safeguards the Arabs' legitimate rights," Mubarak said.

Official sources said Friday that Egypt had launched "intense contacts with several Arab countries to reduce bilateral disputes" before the summit.

Cairo organized the summit, which will group all Arab nations except Iraq, amid concern for the peace process under Israel's rightwing Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu.

It is the first Arab summit since just after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which bitterly divided the Arab world.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

NO....

Earlier Saturday acting U.S. trade representative Charlene Barshefsky met Shi Guangshang, Vice Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, at the ministry in Beijing.

She also met with officials from the Ministry of Culture and the Press and Publication Administration.

Barshefsky, who arrived late Friday, will meet Chinese official again Sunday, but if no agreement is reached by Monday, Washington and Beijing will impose billions of dollars in sanctions and countersanctions on each other's imports.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

U.S. ....

President Rafsanjani went on to say that those without spiritual belief may be influenced by threats and bullying, but the ones firmly believing in the Almighty are by no means affected by the blackmail and ballyhoo of the arrogant powers. "Adopting such measures by the U.S. today is a mere blunder," he emphasized.

Evaluating the struggle of the Islamic Coalition Society against the despotic monarchy and praising the self-sacrifice of those pioneering in the Islamic Revolution, the president noted that the generations born in the post-revolution era are even more determined, aware and zealous than their predecessors to uphold the ideals of the Islamic Revolution.

President Rafsanjani commemorated the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the late Imam Khomeini and said that the late leader acted as the pivot of the revolutionary movement and was indeed a divine gift for the humanity.

He reiterated that the departure of the late leader left no vacuum in the leadership of the Islamic Revolution since a wise and competent personality and the late Imam's close aide, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, took over the divine task of leadership.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

KABUL....

East and South Asia has reportedly invited leaders of Afghan factions to a conference in Washington on June 25 to discuss ways to resolve the Afghan civil war.

Brown recently toured Afghanistan to meet various Afghan leaders.

He said President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his main military commander, Ahmad Shah Masood, had been invited as leaders of Shurai Nazar group despite the fact that the group has since merged with Rabbani's Jamiat-i-Islami Party.

The official said many Afghans had been invited from outside Afghanistan as experts, though no experts from within the country had been invited.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

AKHOUNDI....

and the ratio of the urban population will exceed 75 percent.

Moreover, in the said period, the number of cities in Iran will be 1.5 times more than what existed in the past.

The Iranian minister also touched on the destructive impact of the imposed Iraqi war and the damage inflicted by natural disasters, earthquakes in particular. He said more than 250,000 urban and rural housing units in the country were destroyed during the 1980-88 war, adding that their reconstruction will be completed by next year.

Another 400,000 urban and rural housing units damaged by natural calamities have also been reconstructed, Akhoundi said.

Describing as successful the measures taken by the Iranian government during the post-revolution years, the minister said that two projects have been implemented by the government for balanced distribution of the population which is to reach 130 million in the year 2021.

Among other measures taken by the Islamic Republic, he referred to the construction of 18 new towns, covering a total area of 60,000 hectares and accommodating four million people.

Akhoundi stressed that all participants of the gathering should commit themselves to the decisions which are to be adopted by the conference and added that implementation of these measures needs strong political will and determination.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

57....

against the Turkish government to carve out a separate Kurdish homeland in Turkey's southeast, on the border with Syria, Iran and Iraq.

Twelve years of fighting have claimed nearly 22,000 lives, including rebels, soldiers, police and civilians.

On Friday, 50 Kurdish rebels were killed around Cukurca as Turkish forces pressed ahead with the latest campaign in the north of the country, military sources in Ankara said.

The major Turkish newspaper *Hurriyet* reported that 5,000 Turkish troops moved into Iraq to chase down rebels, who have rear bases inside Iraqi territory.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

EKEUS....

The council reaction came after Iraq, in a compromise sent to Ekeus on Friday, attempted to defuse the four-day crisis with the United Nations by agreeing to allow the snap weapons searches to proceed if certain conditions are met.

Iraq set off the crisis on Tuesday by issuing a blanket ban preventing the UN inspectors from entering buildings linked to the elite Republican Guard, on grounds of national security.

Ekeus stressed that his mission was "not to negotiate, we are there to implement resolutions."

Under UN resolutions, Iraq must dismantle and account for all its weapons of mass destruction and agree to long-term monitoring before a six-year old international oil embargo can be lifted.

The council asked Ekeus to travel to Baghdad "as soon as possible" to secure "immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access" for UN inspectors searching for possible banned weaponry concealed by Iraq.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

GREEK....

claims could seriously upset the delicate balance achieved recently with many sacrifices," he added.

Relations between the two NATO allies worsened in January, when they both sent naval forces to claim an uninhabited island in the eastern Aegean.

Greek and Turkish naval forces have been playing a nervous cat and mouse game around rocky islets off the Turkish coast on a daily basis. Athens and Ankara have exchanged angry words and dozens of protests over violations of territorial waters.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

SYRIA....

The travelers also reported Syrian troop reinforcements "for the first time" in areas near the border, it added.

The U.S. State Department said earlier this month that several non-accidental blasts took place in Syria in May. Damascus dismissed the reports, which it said had been traced two Turkish journalists amid cool ties between the two countries over an Israeli-Turkish military accord.

Al-Hayat said one of four blasts — none of which caused casualties — was a booby-trapped car which exploded in the Bassatin region just outside Damascus near the home of Abdallah Ocalan, the leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

"Syrian security forces who rushed to the scene found another booby-trapped car that had failed to explode," the source said.

A second, smaller bomb exploded a few days later in the central Damascus square of Marjeh in an empty construction plot.

Two other blasts shook the northern Syrian town of Latakia in the past two months, with one concealed in a car and the other in a garbage bin, it said quoting well-informed sources in Damascus.

WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 32°C, Min. temp. 22°C

Partly cloudy with wind and dust

Warmest Points: Omidieh 48°C

Coldest Point: Ardebil 4°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Jedda	—	Vienna	19
Riyadh	—	Moscow	14
Istanbul	—	Madrid	31
Rome	26	Abu Dhabi	39
Athens	29	Karachi	36
London	21	New Delhi	37
Paris	—	Kuwait	47
Frankfurt	—		



TEHRAN – The newly-appointed Greece ambassador, Dimitri Csikouris (C), arrived in Tehran yesterday morning and was welcomed by official in charge of Foreign Ministry's protocol department Seyed Hamid Nour (R) and Greek charge d'Affair, Nicolas Plexidas (L).

Heavy Rains Kill 65 in Southern India

NEW DELHI (AFP) – At least 65 people were killed, dozens injured and nearly 200 missing as torrential rains lashed the southern Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, officials and news agencies said Saturday.

Thirty one people were killed overnight Friday in the torrential rains in Andhra Pradesh, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. Twenty people were washed away in Madanapally Town where a rain-fed lake inundated the area.

Officials reported seven lightning-related deaths in Nizamabad district and four rain-related casualties from other parts of the state.

In adjoining Tamil Nadu, 25 people have died this week, including 11 in the state capital Madras which received one of the highest rainfalls that paralyzed life in the otherwise bustling city on Friday, officials said.

They said 174 fishermen who had headed towards the Bay of Bengal on Monday on 25 mechanized boats remained missing. A search for them has proved fruitless so far, they added.

More Than 6,000 Liberians Housed Near Monrovia

MONROVIA (AFP) – More than 6,000 civilians fleeing ongoing factional fighting in western Liberia have arrived at a camp for displaced people near Monrovia, aid workers said Friday.

Local aid worker David Brown said that for the last two weeks civilians have been arriving at the Voice of America Camp (VOA), a former transmission station housing displaced people since 1992. The civilians have arrived from several parts of Grand Cape Mount and Bomi counties.

He said the escapees were fleeing renewed fighting between rival wings of the United Liberation Movement which is reported to be spreading.

A supervisor at the VOA displaced camp, Ali Bangura, Friday appealed to the World Food Program (WFP) to supply food for the new arrivals, some of whom he described as "malnourished and in very bad health."

Earlier this week some 2,000 civilians fleeing the clashes arrived at the Banjor beach in Monrovia's western suburb.

One of the fugitives, who arrived by canoe, described the condition of civilians in Cape Mount as "very pathetic."

In another development, a WFP convoy carrying some 380 tons of badly needed relief food left here Thursday for Voinjama in Liberia's northwestern Lofa County.

WFP spokesman Amos Leggae said the consignment comprised bulgur wheat, beans and cooking oil and was aimed at "easing the acute shortage of food facing thousands of war-weary citizens in rural Liberia."

Iran's Role in Regional Peace, Stability Crucial

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – Three British representatives in the European Parliament called on the head of the Iranian Parliament's Research Center and one of Tehran constituency's representatives in the Fifth Majlis, Mohammad Javad Larijani, here Saturday.

One of the visiting deputies noted that from his country's standpoint, Iran is among the most significant countries in the Middle East, and that peace and stability in this sensitive region cannot be established without Iran playing a major role in this regard.

He added, "We support the idea of having negotiations with Iran over the existing issues in place of confrontation and back the policy of holding critical dialogs between the two sides."

Larijani, in turn, said that Iran forges its relations with other countries based on its national interests, and that trustability is a touchstone to determine with which countries Iran will have more extensive relations.

The head of the research center went on to say, "On the international scene, we are witnessing some positive developments, such as the emergence of some dynamic countries in Asia. Due to such developments, the relations between Iran and Asia will be gradually upgraded to such a high level that, in my view, Asia will turn out to be Iran's major economic and commercial partner at the outset of the 21st century."

Regarding the links between the Islamic Republic of Iran with Europe, Larijani said that Europeans expect the Western values to be accepted worldwide, while Iran believes that different nations should have respect for the cultures and beliefs of others.

The representative in the Fifth Majlis further noted that Iran holds a positive attitude toward the unification of Europe and hopes that the unification would lay the foundation for Europe's more political independence.

Welcoming the proposal by the European Parliament's deputies for the expansion of ties between the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the European Parliament, Larijani expressed hope that the visiting representatives, after observing the realities in Iran, will convey a true image of what they have seen to their people.

NATEQ NOURI:
Iran Should Be Strong, Self-Sufficient to Withstand Arrogant Powers

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – The Parliament Speaker, Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, in a meeting here Saturday with members of the Iranian Academy of Sciences stressed that



despite the efforts already made, the academy of sciences has remained unknown and has not attained to its real status.

He added that adequate emphasis should be laid on the culture, literature and sciences so that the academy would reach its deserved and real position in the society.

Underlining the fact that the country's research centers are not cooperating with one another, the speaker pointed out that the lack of cooperation could hinder the country's development.

"It is the duty of the academy to direct the activities of the research centers and create coordination among them so that redundant work will be prevented," he added.

Nouri further underscored the need for inviting the cooperation of researchers and specialized and devoted work force, adding that the country is undergoing an era of construction, which requires concerted effort by all Iranians.

He also called for cooperation between the Iranian Academy of Sciences and other academies in the world, particularly in Islamic countries.

The Parliament Speaker concluded by reiterating that 'Down with the U.S.' can be realized only through promoting research and sciences. "In order to withstand the arrogant powers, we have to be strong and self-sufficient," he stressed.

Niger Sticks to Original July 7 Election Date

NIAMEY (AFP) — Niger's Electoral Commission, known as Ceni, acknowledged Saturday the military junta's decision to keep July 7 as the date for first-round presidential elections.

Last Thursday Ceni announced that the original date set for the polls would be postponed by three weeks because of problems with voting lists, but this decision was overruled later in the day by the junta.

According to the government, France — the former colonial power in Niger — has provided the West African country with "exceptional" means to speed up the work of the commission.

"Effectively, it is up to the head of state to fix the date of the poll, and we take note (of his decision)," Ceni chairman Maidadji Mainassara told journalists in Niamey on Saturday.

The commission would "work as before with the new means at its disposal," he added.

Five candidates, including head of state General Ibrahim Barre Mainassara and the head of state who he overthrew in January, Mahamane Ousmane, are contesting the polls.

Campaigning opened across the country on Friday.

The candidates have said they are satisfied with the work of the commission.

"If Ceni continues in the same vein, we will have free and transparent elections," said former National Assembly president Mahamadou Issoufou, who is another of the presidential hopefuls.

Minister: Iran's Presence in Int'l Habitat II Confab, a Success

ANKARA (IRNA) – The visiting Iranian Minister of Housing and Urban Development Abbas Ahmad Akhoundi said that Iran's presence in the different committees of the International Habitat II Conference held here was a success.

He also lauded the success of the Iranian delegation which he had led to the international conference in presenting the main viewpoints of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the subjects discussed in the meeting.

Speaking to IRNA, the minister noted that the Iranian delegation during the conference presented its stands regarding safeguarding family indentity, moral and cultural subjects, different problems facing women and also the necessity of implementing Islamic regulations.

Search for Western Hostages to Be Resumed If Leads Emerge

NEW DELHI (AFP) – A joint communique by four Western countries on Saturday said an extensive search for four kidnapped tourists in Kashmir had failed but would be resumed if further leads emerged.

"The Kashmir authorities have been conducting an extensive search of the area around Magamrakh village to try and verify the credibility of a report that (the hostages) might have been killed and buried in the area," it said.

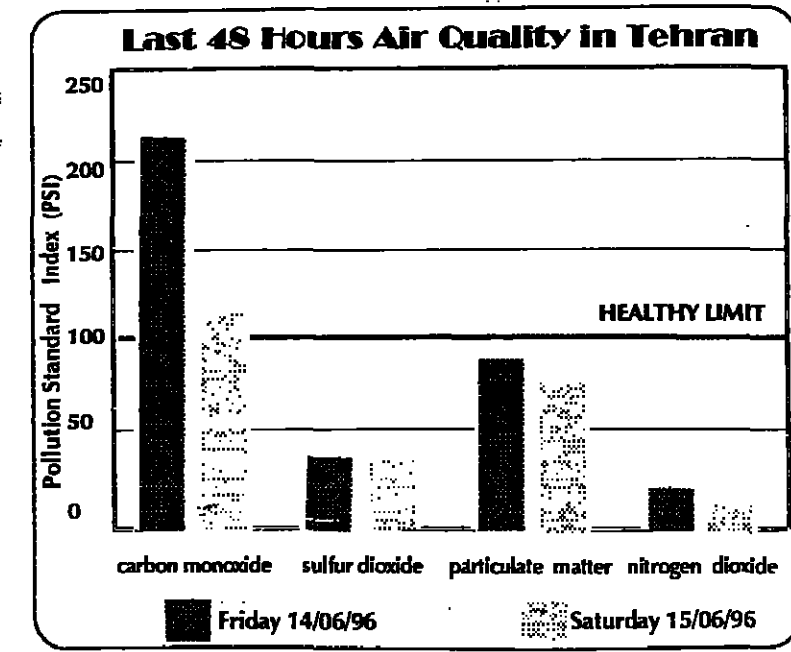
"After 10 days of concentrated effort the searchers have found nothing to confirm or contradict the suggestion that the hostages might be dead," said the statement from the governments of Britain, Germany, Norway and the United States.

"The search has been brought to a halt for the time being. It will be resumed if further information comes our way to refine our understanding of what happened to the hostages."

Indian troops aided by law enforcement agents from Britain, Germany and the United States launched the search earlier this month in Magamrakh, some 70 kilometers (50 miles) south of the state winter capital Srinagar.

The agents also used two Alsatian sniffer dogs flown in from Germany.

The search followed a confession by an arrested separatist group that the tourists – Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, German Dirk Hasert and American Donald Hutchings – who had been separately abducted by the Al-Faran group in July, were killed in Magamrakh on December 19 and buried.



Becker Wants to Be Lord of Wimbledon

LONDON (Rueter) — Tennis champion Boris Becker may buy his next title — Lord of Wimbledon — from Princess Diana's brother.

The German who at the age of 17 became the youngest winner ever of the men's title in 1985 is interested in the ancient title being put up for sale by Earl Spencer, brother of the estranged wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles.

The honorary aristocratic title that has been in the Spencer family for 200 years is expected to fetch up to 50,000 pounds ($75,000).

Nine Die in Row Over Sugar Cane

CAIRO (AFP) — Nine people were killed and four injured when an argument over a stolen sugar plane plant degenerated into a machine-gun battle between two families in southern Egypt, the daily Al-Ahrar reported Saturday.

The row began when a child stole a plant from a neighbor's field near Abu Tig in Asyut Province, 385 kilometers (240 miles) south of Cairo, the paper said.

The owners of the two fields began arguing over the plant before their families became involved and the gunbattle erupted, leaving nine dead on both sides.

SYDNEY, Australia (June 15): Pro-gun supporters march during a rally in Sydney. An estimated 35,000 people attended took part in the event. Speakers at the meeting condemned new federal government laws that will ban all automatic and semi automatic firearms. *(AFP PHOTO)*

More Than 200 Injured in Manchester Explosion, Major Blames IRA

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — A van exploded in central Manchester Saturday morning, injuring more than 200 people who were caught in a storm of shattered glass.

The blast followed a coded telephone warning from a man with an Irish accent, and Prime Minister John Major said: "This explosion looks like the work of the IRA."

Police were clearing the area and a bomb disposal team was examining the van when it exploded at 11:20 a.m.

"I was hit by flying glass. It was like a white shower all around us," said construction worker Michael Doherty.

A dozen people were being treated for serious injuries, including a pregnant woman. "The pregnant woman was thrown through the air but I can confirm that the baby's heart is still beating," said Richard Emmott, spokesman for Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Manchester's ambulance service said it counted 206 injured people.

Police set off a second explosion at about 1 p.m. (1200 GMT) to neutralize a suspect package, which proved not to be a bomb.

"A man with an Irish accent rang a local TV station, saying that a vehicle was parked containing a bomb," said chief superintendent Peter Harris of Greater Manchester Police.

The IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, was barred from Northern Ireland peace talks that began this week because the outlawed organization has refused to restore the cease-fire it ended in February.

"Sinn Fein have been clamoring to attend the Northern Ireland peace talks which began last week," Major said in London. "If they are really serious about wanting peace they must condemn this act and demand an unequivocal IRA cease-fire now."

The explosion shattered windows half a mile (800 meters) away, according to Press Association, the British news agency.

Colombia's Samper Says U.S. Sanctions Would Backfire

BOGOTA, Colombia (Reuter) — A defiant President Ernesto Samper said on Friday that any U.S. sanctions against Colombia aimed at forcing him to step down would only serve to tighten his hold on power.

"I would have to continue governing," he said when asked about possible U.S. pressure including the revocation of preferential tariffs for some goods and the cancellation of U.S. visas for key government officials including himself.

"What's unacceptable is the idea of a president leaving office because of unjust retaliatory measures applied by another country," he said.

Samper, who was absolved by the Lower House of Congress on Wednesday of any wrongdoing in connection with charges that his 1994 election campaign was partly financed by drug money, commented in an interview with the Caracol radio network.

U.S. officials hinted repeatedly before the vote that punitive sanctions could soon be applied against Colombia, already removed in March from a U.S. list of countries fully cooperating in the global struggle against the drug trade.

Those threats were reiterated on Thursday by U.S. State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns, who said "there are options available to us to express our keen displeasure with the very sorry state of counter-narcotics cooperation between the United States and Colombia."

Samper said he was not worried about the sanctions and did not care about the possible revocation of his U.S. visa. "I already have the only visa I need to govern this country. It's the one I got with the decision through which the Colombian people elected me as their president," he said.

"The best way to strengthen the (Colombian) government's position at this point would be through unfair reprisals against Colombia and against Colombians. What it would do is affirm our need to demand world respect and the Colombian people's right to solve their problems in a Colombian-style way," Samper added.

UN Cities Summit Closes After Days of Wrangling

ISTANBUL (AFP) — After days of wrangling, the UN Summit on Cities finally closed early Saturday with the adoption of a blue-print for tackling the world's urban future.

The final plenary session of the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) adopted the habitat agenda, the main conference document, and a shorter summary of political intent, the Istanbul Declaration, aimed at creating healthy and sustainable living in an increasingly urban world.

The closing session convened more than 10 hours later than scheduled, after a final objection by the United States had to be overcome in the last of a string of disagreements over issues that had little to do with the main thrust of the conference.

Washington took umbrage at references to occupied territories in the Middle East and to "coercive economic measures," considered to refer to the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba, whose President Fidel Castro was one of the stars of the summit.

The United States threatened to vote against the Habitat agenda unless the paragraphs were removed, and delegates went into a new huddle as a firework display — which had been intended to mark the conference's end — began over the Bosphorus.

Finally, just after midnight (2100 GMT), it was announced that the plenary session would begin.

Referring to the offending part of the text, Melinda Kimble, deputy assistant administrator for global issues in the U.S. State Department, told reporters "the bracketed text is deleted."

The previous days had seen a number of controversies, the most prominent of which was a debate over human rights, including rights to reproductive health that pitted the Vatican against the United States and other countries.

Another controversial issue, the most central to the theme of the conference, was resolved after the United States announced that it would recognize the human right to an adequate home as enshrined in various international instruments.

The conference called on governments to ensure "affordable adequate shelter for all" and to make human settlements "safer, healthier, more liveable, equitable and sustainable."

Ariane Rocket Launched, Deploys Satellite

KOUROU, French Guiana (AFP) — The 87th Ariane European space rocket took off Saturday from the space center here and successfully launched a telecommunications satellite, Arianespace officials said.

The Ariane-4 rocket was fired at 0655 GMT. The launch had been scheduled for two days earlier but the failure of the first new-generation Ariane-5 rocket on June 4 led to a delay.

Belonging to the International Satellite Telecommunications Organization (INTELSAT), 20 minutes and 48 seconds after takeoff in a text-book operation, officials said.

Investigations into the explosion of the Ariane-5 rocket 11 days ago are increasingly focusing on a software or electrical system problem, space officials said.

The 700-ton unmanned rocket and its four satellites were blown up 37 seconds into its flight by mission control above the space center here when it veered off course. An investigation commission is to report by July 15.

NATO Chiefs Plan Help for Bosnian Elections

SARAJEVO (AFP) — NATO's top political and military chiefs held talks in Sarajevo Saturday on IFOR's role helping to prepare for Bosnian elections due in mid-September.

NATO Chief Javier Solana of Spain, and the senior NATO military commander in Europe, U.S. General George Joulwan, flew into Sarajevo for the talks with NATO commanders in Bosnia, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and other officials.

Defense ministers of the 16 NATO countries agreed this week to beef up the activities of the NATO-led Peacekeeping Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia ahead of the nationwide elections due in Bosnia under the terms of the Dayton peace process by September 14.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Izetbegovic Saturday morning, Solana said "the basic idea" of the NATO involvement in the elections is "to guarantee freedom of movement.

"This is absolutely basic if we want to have free and fair elections," he said.

Concerned by the possibility of what U.S. officials term "mission creep" the largest military force to deploy in Europe in over 50 years has been reluctant to become involved in political aspects of the struggling peace process in Bosnia.

The elections are being coordinated by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, a 53-nation Europe-based political body.

The NATO chief, who was accompanied to the meeting by Joulwan and the NATO commander in Bosnia Admiral Leighton Smith, said: "We have planned together some aspects and we are going to implement them together but again it is not our responsibility, it is the responsibility of the OSCE to make those elections a success and we are going to do our best."



ZAGREB, Croatia (June 14): Croatian President Franjo Tudjman (C) is flanked by Secretary General of NATO Javier Solana (R) and NATO Forces Commander George Joulwan (L) after Solana and Joulwan arrived for a one-day visit to the Croatian capital to discuss the role of NATO-led peace force in Bosnia. *(AFP PHOTO)*





BEIJING - Chinese and U.S. negotiators began a third day of talks Saturday aimed at resolving a dispute over copyright piracy that has brought their countries to the brink of a trade war.

TOKYO - Sumitomo Corp.'s huge losses from unauthorized copper trading by a star dealer have raised concerns about the threadbare risk management system of 'Japan incorporated'.

LONDON - Rendering practices in most EU countries for producing meat and bone meal from animal carcasses still fail to eliminate the scrapie infection, a sheep disease seen as a possible cause of BSE, the *Financial Times* reported Saturday.

TOKYO - Known as "Mr Five Percent" and "The Hammer", Yasuo Hamanaka was able to sway world copper markets with his decisions to buy or sell.

WASHINGTON - The World Bank said that its board had approved two loans totaling $98.7 million to support Tunisia's efforts to bolster the competitiveness of the country's private firms.

BEIJING - Unemployment in China affected 12.8 million people at the end of last year, an increase of 9.4 percent over the previous 12 months, according to official figures reported Friday.

BUENOS AIRES - The best gift for father's day would be an end to rampant unemployment in recognition of the "valiant endurance" fathers have shown, Bishop Bernardo Witte said.

DAMASCUS - The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development has extended three loans of 59 million Kuwaiti dinars (around $195 million) to Syria, officials said Thursday.

ATHENS - Greece on Friday signed a financing agreement for a new Athens international airport, expected to give a major boost to the economy.

BEIJING - China's foreign trade grew 2.6 percent in the first five months of this year, while the trade deficit in May shrank to $490 million, the *China Daily* said Saturday.

WASHINGTON — U.S. industrial output rose a greater than expected 0.7 percent in May when plants operated at 83.2 percent of capacity, the Federal Reserve reported Friday.

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS - The cost of living index jumped 1.7 percent in May for the second consecutive month, marking an inflationary trend in Israel, the Statistics Office announced.

MOSCOW - The Russian government plans to launch sweeping reforms of social welfare provision and the tax system soon, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said.

ISLAMABAD - Amid noisy opposition protests, the Pakistan government Thursday unveiled a 500.2 billion rupee ($14.2 billion) budget which includes heavy new taxes to combat a deficit.

NEW DELHI - The Tatas, one of India's top industrial families, have set up a trust to fund political parties following calls for greater transparency in campaign donations, a newspaper said Friday.


GDANSK, Poland (June 12): Workers of the bankrupt Gdansk shipyard attend a mass outside the *works main gate during a 48-hour sit-in strike to protest the government's decision to close the* historic shipyard where the Solidarity Trade Union was born in August 1980.

(AFP PHOTO)

APEC Can Exert Pressure on U.S., Japan and China

MANILA (AFP) -- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum may serve to keep the United States, Japan and China playing within the rules of world trade, a business adviser to the group said.

"APEC can restrain the U.S. propensity to take unilateral actions on trade" such as anti-dumping measures and sanctions to protect intellectual property rights, said Tommy Koh, head of the secretariat of the advisory pacific basin forum, which is currently winding down its operations.

The 18-member APEC could "exert benign pressure on Japan to open up (its economy) and also to help integrate China in world trade," Koh added.

He was speaking to reporters ahead of the inaugural meeting here of the APEC Business Advisory Council, made up of business executives, which is to supercede the Pacific basin forum.

Koh has no position in the new forum.

"Members of the club will compel any member to abide by its rules," the Singaporean said.

Koh said APEC did not want to assume the "huge and monstrous bureaucracy" of the European Union, but he said he believed member economies could solve their disputes through consensus and *conciliation*.

APEC groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

S. Korea, France Sign Construction Cooperation Agreement

SEOUL (AFP) -- France and South Korea agreed to expand cooperation in construction and transportation, especially in the railroad and airport construction sectors, officials said.

The agreement was signed here between Bernard Pons, France's minister of capital works, housing, transportation and tourism, and Ryoo Sang-Yol, South Korea's vice construction and transportation minister.

On Friday, Pons was to meet with South Korean President Kim Young-Sam.

France's Gec Alsthom signed a 2.1-billion-dollar contract in 1994 to supply 46 sets of rolling stock and operating equipment for South Korea's high-speed train project.

But the project has been delayed by the controversy over how the railway should detour around the treasure-studded ancient city of Kyongju.

Referring to the prospect of increasing bilateral ties in high-speed railroads and airport construction, a ministry spokesman said that details on how they will increase cooperation would be worked out later.

"The agreement will provide South Korean authorities and entrepreneurs with opportunities to acquire France's know-how about construction and transportation," a French Embassy official in Seoul said.

S. Africa Introduces New Economic Package But Markets React Coolly

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — Finance Minister Trevor Manuel on Friday introduced a new macro-economic policy to create jobs, reduce inflation and provide six percent economic growth by the end of the century.

In a parliamentary debate here on his economic policies, Manuel announced a series of measures and proposals, including tax incentives for foreign and domestic investors. He said he wanted to reduce the country's preborrowing deficit to four percent in the next budget.

Financial markets responded coolly to the new policy and the battered South African rand lost three cents against the dollar from its previous close of 4.3150 Thursday. At midday, shortly after manuel's announcement, the currency dug in at 4.3450 against the greenback, where it remained until the close.

"The market was expecting new direction but nothing concrete came out," one dealer told AFP. "We haven't seen anything new, so the market has gone bearish again."

The South African Chamber of Business welcomed the government's "positive approach" to macro-economic planning and said the plan should boost foreign investor confidence.

But, the chamber's director-general Raymond Parsons warned, a long and arduous road lies ahead and sacrifices will be required.

Tax incentives proposed in the plan and the government's willingness to be flexible towards labor market realities would send encouraging signals about South Africa's long-term economic future, Parsons said.

The plan brought general approval from politicians, the main opposition National Party's Theo Alant saying he could "find no fault with it."

At the other end of the political spectrum, the South African Communist Party welcomed the policy, saying the government had resisted "free market dogmatism" and envisaged a key role for the public sector.

The small, Liberal Democratic Party said many details of the government's economic strategy still have to be spelt out.

President Nelson Mandela hailed the plan as "another giant step towards realising ... the aims of job creation and income redistribution that the nation yearns for."

Manuel, a member of Mandela's ruling African National Congress, said there was a need for a "broad national social agreement" to accomplish the aims of the new policy, but stressed that the "parameters for change" included in the framework are non-negotiable.

The agreement, according to documents released to coincide with his speech, aims "to facilitate wage and price moderation, underpin accelerated investment and employment and enhance public service delivery."

Policies directed specifically at foreign investors include the relaxation of access to domestic credit, Manuel said.

Singapore Closes Book on Barings Scandal

SINGAPORE (Reuter) -- Singapore's decision not to prosecute two former Barings chiefs over the $1.4 billion losses that broke the venerable British bank was probably its final act in a saga that rocked the World Financial Community, analysts said.

"Singapore is saying, 'It's over, as far as we're concerned,'" said Bruce Gale, regional manager of political and economic risk consultancy.

Lawyers who have followed closely the case that revolved around the spectacular losses of rogue trader Nick Leeson, said they agreed Singapore's probe of the case was most probably over. The lawyers asked not to be named.

The Commercial Affairs Department (CAD), Singapore's white collar crime bureau, said on Thursday it had decided there were "insufficient grounds to bring criminal charges" against James Bax and Simon Jones.

Attorney-general Chan Sek Keong, the government's top lawyer, agreed, Cad said in a statement.

Bax was head of the Barings Singapore subsidiary that employed Leeson, whose $1.4 billion trading losses broke Britain's oldest merchant bank. Jones was a director of the Singapore subsidiary.

Leeson fled Singapore just before news of his losses broke in February last year, sparking a global manhunt. He was finally detained in Frankfurt, then sent back to Singapore in November for trial.

Leeson, now 29, was jailed for six and a half years for cheating. So far, he is the only Barings employee to be charged, despite allegations against other executives in Singapore's official report on the debacle.

EU Free Trade Jigsaw Beginning to Take Shape

LUXEMBOURG (Reuter) — The European Union put another piece of its Mediterranean free trade Jigsaw in place when it agreed terms for Syria to move towards EU Association.

An association agreement promises lucrative business and economic incentives and is crucial for the 15-nation bloc's ambition to create a "Euromed" free trade zone.

"Syria is some way off (association), but we are moving in the right direction," said an EU official. "It is important that we keep our potential partners interested."

On Tuesday, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara signed a cooperation agreement with the EU — not a particularly substantive document, but the first step towards association.

EU diplomats face a myriad of challenges in negotiating Syria's association. While they have some admiration for its Laissez Faire economy, Syria's human rights record fails almost every test.

"The economy is in pretty good shape considering its isolation," an official said. "The structure and goodwill is in place (for association) but politically..."

The European Commission, which negotiates trade and political agreements on behalf of the EU, will have a hard time convincing the European Parliament that Syrian President Hafez al-Assad can ever be persuaded to relinquish his iron grip on the country.

The European Parliament increasingly opposes using trade deals as an incentive for a country to improve its human rights records. It only approved recent association agreements with Morocco and Turkey after resolutions calling for closer monitoring of human rights were included.

Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini, speaking for the EU presidency at a news conference, said Syria was making progress on diversifying its economy.

While the economy was still dependent on oil or oil products, Syria had greatly improved its banking, electricity and tourism sectors.

China Arrests U.S. Businessman for Garbage Import

BEIJING (Reuter) — Chinese officials said on Friday a U.S. businessman arrested in Shanghai had been held for alleged involvement in the illegal import of garbage masquerading as waste paper for recycling.

Police in Shanghai formally arrested William Ping Chen on Thursday on charges of importing banned goods to China, eight days after he was detained in China's commercial hub, the Xinhua news agency said.

His arrest marks China's toughest action so far over the emotive issue of illegal imports of U.S. garbage that has spiralled into a question of national pride, diplomats said.

"William Ping Chen was arrested because he avoided china's customs supervision and imported goods strictly banned by Chinese law," a spokeswoman for the State Council, China's cabinet, said.

"As far as we know, this case involves foreign garbage found in Shanghai," she said. "Shanghai judicial authorities are now dealing with this case."

Chen was detained on June 5 and the Shanghai people's procuratorate approved his arrest on Thursday.



TV Programs

Sunday Evening, June 16

National Network. Channel 1:

13:09 Focus on Family
14:00 News
14:30 Focus on Family
15:00 (Documentary Program)
15:45 Interlude
16:00 Kids Corner
16:30 News
17:00 Children's Program
18:00 Scientific Program
18:15 Water, Soil, Plant
19:00 News
19:15 Millennium of Persian Literature
19:45 Religious Program
20:00 Family Talks
20:25 Review of Day's Major News Stories
20:46 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:50 Religious Program
21:00 News
21:30 Commercials
22:00 Foreign TV Series
22:45 Report on the Construction Jihad Week
22:55 Religious Program
23:00 Special Report on European Nations' Cup

National Network. Channel 2:

13:09 Religious Program
13:15 Interlude
13:30 Scientific Program
14:00 Iranian TV Series
14:45 Educational Program
15:00 Geometry
15:30 Teaching French
16:00 Preuniversity Program
17:00 Focus on Living (teaching requirements for life)
18:00 Children's Program
19:00 Art of Training
19:30 Book Reading
20:00 Religious Program
20:30 Scientific and Cultural News
20:46 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:50 Interlude
21:00 Iranian TV Series
22:00 Interesting Places and Events
22:30 News
22:45 Interlude
23:00 Commentary on the Holy Qoran
24:00 Man and Theater

National Network. Channel 3:

16:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
16:15 The Tops
16:30 The Youth (in Shiraz)
17:00 Religious Program
17:30 Sports Program
19:00 For Tomorrow
19:30 The New You Asked for It
19:45 Sports News
20:00 Family's Quiz Show
20:46 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:50 Poem of the Youth
21:00 Sports Roundup
22:45 News (in English)

National Network. Tehran Channel:

17:00 Local Information
18:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
18:15 Visiting
18:30 Tehran News
18:45 Report on Tehran
19:00 Until Tomorrow
19:30 Feature Movie
19:45 Medical Points
20:00 You and Advisor
20:30 Commercial Program
20:46 Call to Prayer (Azan)

20:50 Local Economy
21:00 Report on Tehran Districts
21:15 Report on Social Security
21:30 Face to Face
22:00 News
22:15 Report on Tehran
22:30 Digest
23:00 Special Report on European Nations' Cup

Monday Morning, June 17

National Network. Channel 1:

06:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
06:15 Good Morning Iran
09:10 Children's Program
10:10 Foreign TV Series
11:00 Water, Soil, Plant
11:40 Religious Program
12:00 Millennium of Persian Literature
12:30 Focus on Family
13:06 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network. Channel 2:

06:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
06:15 Children's Program
06:45 TV Programs Announcement
07:00 Book Reading
07:30 Political Program
08:00 Man and Theater
08:30 Geometry
09:00 Teaching French
09:30 Human Body
09:45 Simple Machines
10:00 Interlude
10:15 Kids Corner
11:00 Focus on Living (teaching requirements for life)
12:00 TV Programs Announcement
12:15 Interlude
12:30 Religious Program
12:45 Art of Training
13:06 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network. Channel 3 :

07:30 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
07:45 Sports Program
08:00 (To be announced)
09:45 The Tops
09:00 Morning Exercises
10:00 The Youth (in Boushehr)
11:00 Family's Quiz Show
13:06 Call to Prayer (Azan)



MADRID, Spain (Espana) (June 12): Judge Jose Antonio Jimenez Alfaro is joined by colleague Manuel Garcia Castellon (L) as he recovers from the shock of being wounded in the face and hands a few minutes after a letter-bomb exploded at his Madrid courthouse. *(AFP PHOTO)*

Mali Beating Guinea Worm Scourge

MOPTI, Mali (AFP) – Guinea worm disease is one of tropical Africa's more hideous afflictions, with parasites in the body reaching a meter (more than three feet) in length, but this impoverished country has found a simple and inexpensive way to get rid of it.

Known to the scientific community as dracontiasis, the disease got its common name from being prevalent among slaves shipped to the Americas from the coastal region of West Africa between Senegal and Nigeria known as Guinea.

It is caused by drinking water contaminated by a minuscule snail, the cyclops, a copepod crustacean with a median eye in the front of its head.

"The mollusc bursts inside the stomach during digestion and the worm larvae it is hosting migrate into the blood vessels," explained health worker Sogoba Togota, who is in charge of hygienic measures in this central region of the semi-desert state of 10 million people.

Once on the loose in a person's body, the larvae change into worms and grow from 20 centimeters (eight inches) to more than a meter (3.3 feet) in length over a period of about one year.

The adult worm then needs to get out of the body to lay its eggs. So it exudes a secretion which causes extremely itchy spots on the skin. The vigorous scratching which ensues gives them an exit point.

Preferring cool conditions for the egg-laying, they often emerge from the hands or feet while people are bathing in the ponds or drawing water.

"But the worms can just as well come out through the tongue, the genitals or the eyes," Togota said.

The exit of the worms lasts two months, accompanied by intense pain, fever and nausea. It also generally occurs when farming is at its busiest, entailing serious economic losses for the stricken, Togota noted. That is no doubt why the Dogon tribe inhabiting these parts calls the illness "the disease of the empty grain store."

Still endemic in 17 African countries, guinea worm disease nonetheless appears to be on the verge of eradication in Mali and could well be wiped out everywhere else it occurs by the end of the century, according to specialists.

They base their expectations on the proven success of a mass education campaign mounted in Mali by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the government, accompanied by the widespread equipping of households with a simple sieve made out of locally manufactured nylon to filter water and thereby eliminate the minute snail from the food chain. The sieves cost the equivalent of about 40 U.S. cents.

East Germans More Often Ill Than Westerners

LEIPZIG, Germany (AFP) – Germans in the formerly communist east complain more of heart problems, bad circulation and infections than their countrymen in the west, according to a survey carried out by Leipzig University.

Eastern Germans take three times more painkillers and heart medicines than westerners, according to the report by the Medical Psychology and Sociology Department.

"The greater prevalence of these ailments in the east is doubtless connected with the burden of reunification," said the report which was based on data from 1,017 east Germans and 1,1040 west Germans.

The report also showed up differences in attitudes on either side of the former Cold War border. Easterners had a better opinion of themselves and were more supportive of each other than people in the west. However they desired fewer children than westerners, the survey showed.

"Six years after reunification, there are still differences between east and west rooted in life-styles and differing experiences as well as social conditions," the report said.

China to Declare Holiday for Hong Kong Handover

HONG KONG (AFP) – The Chinese government has decided to declare July 1, 1997 – the day Hong Kong reverts to China – a nationwide public holiday, it was reported Friday.

The decision was taken recently to enable governments from each province to hold grand celebrations to mark the day the British colony reverts to Chinese rule after more than 150 years, the pro-China Hong Kong *Commercial Daily* said.

The Chinese flag carrier Air China has proposed to fly a dragon, a legendary symbol of imperial power in olden days, from Beijing to Hong Kong on the day to mark the occasion, it said.

In Hong Kong, the China-formed preparatory committee – charged with the setting up of the first post-1997 Hong Kong government – has already agreed to declare July 1 and 2 next year as public holidays.

Sino-British talks on the handover ceremony are still deadlocked, with Governor Chris Patten warning that China and Britain may have to hold separate handover ceremonies in 1997 if the two sides cannot agree on protocol.

The row over the ceremony is not the only one as the handover approaches.

China's decision to scrap the elected legislative council when it takes over, and its call on top civil servants to accept the authority of its substitute legislature, have aroused widespread criticism.

Queen to Hand Over Duties to Prince Charles

LONDON (AFP) – Queen Elizabeth II has told her son Prince Charles she will never abdicate but will hand over responsibility to him gradually over the years, the *Daily Express* reported Saturday.

The paper quoted Buckingham Palace sources as saying that Charles, 47, will effectively take over many of his mother's duties, especially state visits, by the time she is in her 80s.

The queen, who was 70 in April and was to celebrate her official birthday on Saturday with the trooping the color ceremony, is already the fifth longest reigning British monarch.

But with the Queen Mother almost 96, and still carrying out official engagements, it is expected that the queen may reign for many more years herself.

That would seem to make a reduction in her often heavy burden of engagements — many unseen by the wider public, though still onerous and time-consuming -- inevitable in later years.

The Prince of Wales already carries out many engagements, some officially on behalf of the queen including several palace investiture ceremonies.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said he had no wish to comment on the latest report.

But the *Daily Express* quoted a courtier as saying: "Contrary to ill-informed reports, Charles knows that his mother will never and cannot abdicate.

"But equally, everybody inside and outside the court is fully aware that at some stage more state responsibility will fall on the shoulders of the Prince of Wales as Her Majesty gets older," the source told the tabloid.

"Flying Doctors" Help With Long-Range Diagnosis

LONDON (Reuter) – A British fan of "The Flying Doctors" television series recognized the symptoms of his own rare but undiagnosed disease when watching the Australian soap opera at home.

Radio engineer Rodney Haverson, 52, had suffered for eight years from a condition that baffled his doctors and left him in a wheelchair until he saw an episode that saved his life.

"The handsome hero Dr. Standish has an old flame visiting – a jazz singer who is breathless and tired. Being a brilliant high-flying doctor, he is the only one to spot this rare illness and cure her," he told reporters.

"As O watched, I was ticking off her symptoms and thinking 'Yep, I've got that, and that, and that'. By the end of the show I thought there was just a chance this could be the problem."

Haverson told his doctor who ordered blood tests. They confirmed he was suffering from myasthenia gravis, a rare nervous disease.

The diagnosis saved him. When he was admitted to hospital two weeks later suffering paralysis of the lungs, doctors were able to treat him with the right drugs and his condition has now stabilized.



FRUIT: How Sweet It Is

Are bananas more fattening than other fruits? Can you eat too much fruit? Is fruit juice good for you? Rosemary Stanton dispells Stanton dispells some myths about fruit.

Surveys show that around 40 percent of Aussie males only eat fruit when someone cuts it up for them!

We also know that many children don't eat fruit. It's not that children don't like fruit but rather that they don't think of it, probably because they see so few advertisements for fruit and so many ads for sweet and fatty foods. When they're hungry, they naturally reach for the foods they have seen advertised.

The Nutrients in Fruit

Nutritionally fruit is a wonderful food. You couldn't live on it alone, because it has almost no protein or fat. The nutritional virtues of fruit center on its vitamins and valuable dietary fibre.

Fruits and vegetables are the only dietary sources of vitamin C, apart from breast milk. This vitamin helps the body's immune system defend us against infection. It keeps gums, blood vessels and cartilage in tip-top condition so they are less likely to be attacked by viruses and harmful bacteria.

The fruits with the highest content of vitamin C include guavas, pawpaw, oranges, tangelos, grapefruit, mandarins, custard apples, strawberries, mangoes, rockmelon, pepino, honeydew melons and loquats — any one of these will give you an entire day's supply of vitamin C in one serve.

Many fruits are also good sources of beta carotene — a substance the body converts into vitamin A. Carotene takes its name from carrots (one of the richest sources) and is found in all brightly coloured fruits. Mangoes, apricots, pawpaw, persimmons, rockmelon, tamarillos, passionfruit, guavas, prunes, yellow peaches, oranges, mandarins and tangelos are the best fruit sources.

You can, of course, get vitamin C and beta carotene from vitamin supplements. However, nature has much more to offer than synthetic vitamins. Fruits have many other valuable substances besides vitamins which are too numerous to put into a pill. For example, there are hundreds of different types of carotenoid substances in fruits and vegetables. They don't have the potency of beta carotene to be converted to vitamin A but some have valuable anti-cancer properties.

Fruits are also a good source of dietary fibre. Many Australians, particularly women, don't eat enough fibre. As a result, 450 million doses of laxatives a year are sold to constipated people.

If we ate more dietary fibre, constipation would be rare. All fruits supply fibre, as do vegetables and wholegrain cereals and breads. The fruits with the most fibre include passionfruit, raspberries, guava, dates, pears, pawpaw, strawberries, prunes, apples, oranges, bananas, custard apples and apricots.

Fruit fibre is often rich in pectin, a type of soluble dietary fibre which can help reduce blood cholesterol. That's probably where the old saying: "an apple a day keeps the doctor away" came from. Apples aren't especially good sources of vitamins but their fibre is excellent.



Fruit or Juice?

Fruit juice has the vitamins and the sugars from fruit but not the dietary fibre. Without fibre, juice is much less filling than fruit. For example, it is much easier to drink the juice of 3 oranges — and take in all their kilojoules — than to eat 3 oranges. It is therefore much easier to overdo juices than it is to eat too much fruit. An occasional glass of juice is refreshing but it is not an ideal drink to quench your thirst every time you're hungry.

For many years I have noted that overweight children often do not eat too much — it's what they drink that piles on the kilojoules. Their drinks may be healthy "pure" juices but they still pack a sugar punch, even though the sugar may be "natural."

In most cases, it is better to eat the fruit than drink the juice.

(To be Contd.)

THOUGHT

SWEET is revenge - especially to women.

(Lord Byron)

PRAYER

Noon........................13:05
Evening......................20:46
Dawn (tomorrow)........... 3:49
Sunrise (tomorrow)......... 5:48

TODAY IN HISTORY

1907 - Reactionary part in Russia forces Tsar Nicholas II to dissolve second Duma.

1917 - First all-Russian congress of the Soviets is convened.

1920 - Council of League of Nations holds first public meeting at St. James Palace in London.

1932 - Ban on Nazi storm troopers in Germany is lifted.

1940 - France's Maginot line is abandoned to Germans in World War II.

1958 - United States and Japan sign 10-year agreement on atomic energy.

1960 - U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower cancels visit to Japan after anti-American riots there.

1962 - Three feuding princes in Laos attempt to end their dispute and form coalition government.

1963 - First woman space traveler, Valentina Tereshkova, is launched into orbit from base in Soviet Union.

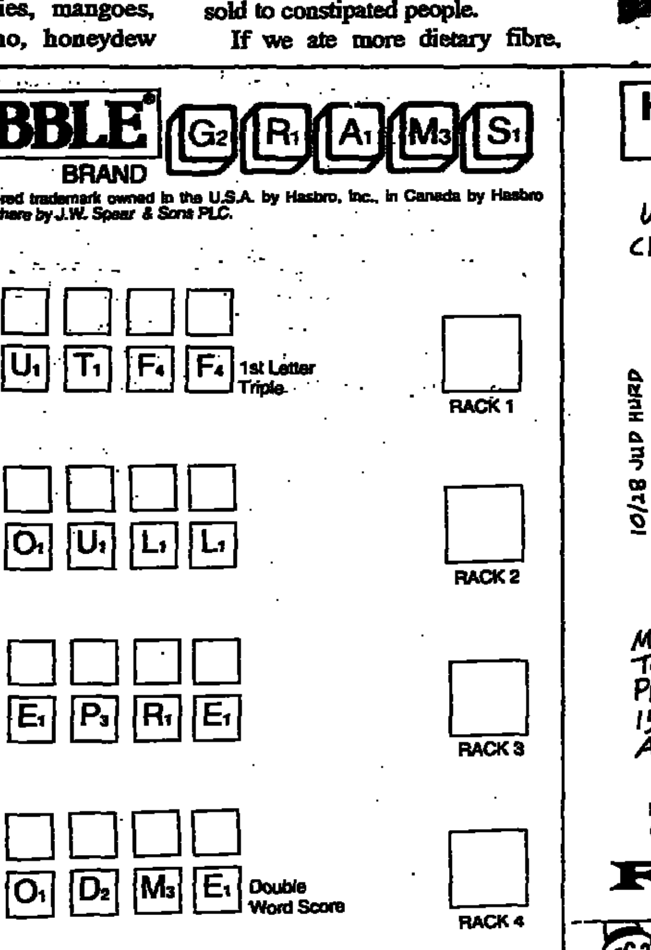
1971 - U.S. Senate votes against plan calling for total American troop withdrawal from Vietnam by end of year.

1990 - Nelson Mandela ends tour of West European nations, where he met with leaders and raised money for ANC.

1991 - Tens of thousands of Filipinos flee the eruption of Mount Pinatubo along ash-clogged roads, while the U.S. begins evacuating all 20,000 dependents.

1992 - The U.S. and Russia agree to slash their arsenals of long range nuclear weapons by two-thirds reducing the chance of a "nuclear nightmare."

1993 - UN forces in Somalia launch new aerial attacks against buildings belonging to warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid.



SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS

Letters	Scoring	Rack
L1 S1 I1 U1 T1 F4 F4	1st Letter Triple	RACK 1
Q10 R1 I1 O1 U1 L1 L1		RACK 2
P3 T1 P3 E1 P3 R1 E1		RACK 3
W4 O1 A1 O1 D2 M3 E1	Double Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 75-85
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ___
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

10-29-94

Here is the solution to yesterday's Scrabble

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

Letters	Rack	Score
R1 E1 I1 N1 T1 E1 R1	RACK 1	64
L1 E1 N1 T1 I1 L1	RACK 2	6
E1 X8 T1 E1 N1 D2 S1	RACK 3	95
M3 I1 F4 F4 E1 D2	RACK 4	15
	JUDD'S TOTAL	180

PAR SCORE 115-125

10-28-94

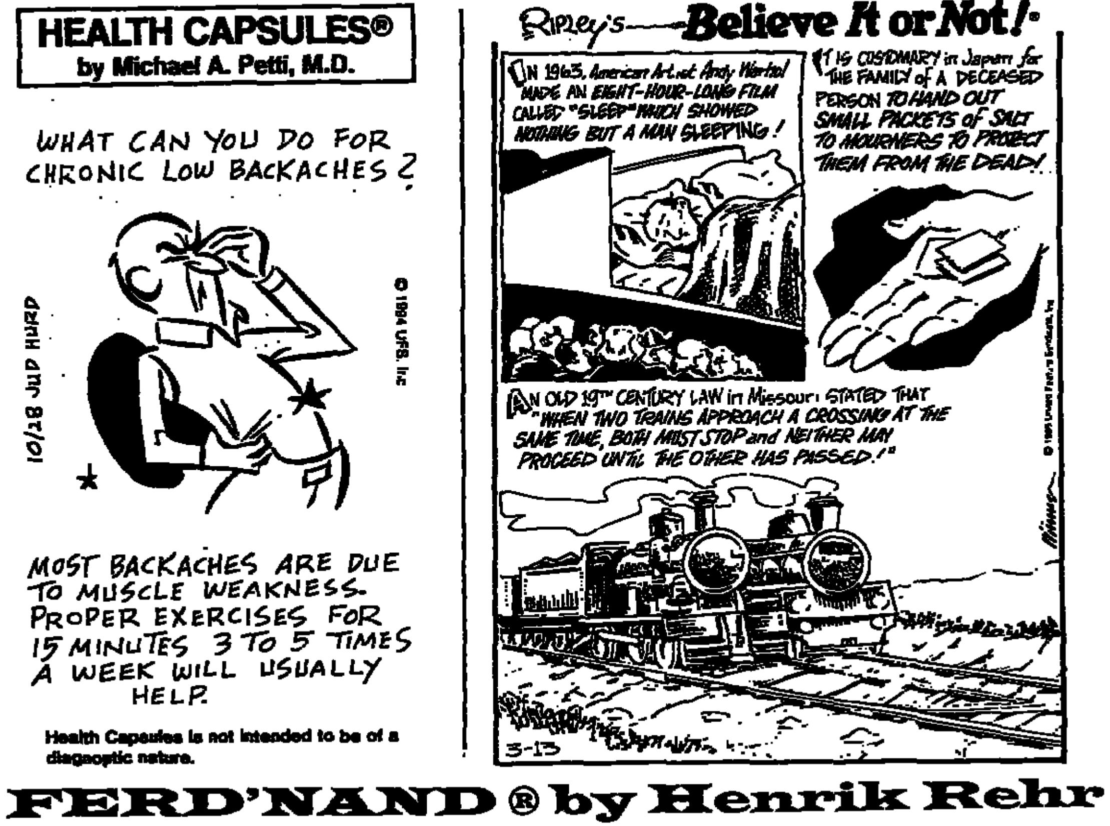


WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR CHRONIC LOW BACKACHES?



MOST BACKACHES ARE DUE TO MUSCLE WEAKNESS. PROPER EXERCISES FOR 15 MINUTES 3 TO 5 TIMES A WEEK WILL USUALLY HELP.

Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.



FERD'NAND ® by Henrik Rehr

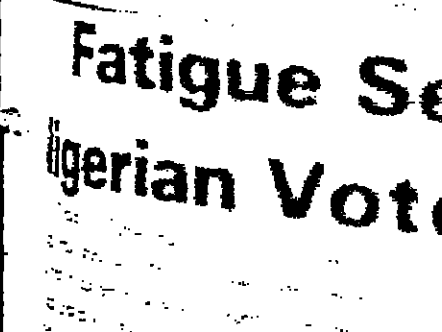
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NANCY ® by Guy & Brad Gilchrist








Fatigue Se
igerian Vot



Ups and Downs of the Yeltsin Years



MOSCOW (AFP) — Since standing his ground memorably on top of a tank in the face of communist putschists in August 1991, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has survived a stormy political career, punctuated by crises, economic turbulence and ill-health.

The following charts the ups and downs of the Yeltsin years before presidential elections in which he is standing for a second five-year term.

Nov. 1987: After criticizing Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Yeltsin is dismissed as Moscow Party chief and then loses his seat on the Politburo.

March 26, 1989: Yeltsin is elected to the first Congress of Peoples' deputies for Moscow with 89 percent of the votes.

May 29, 1990: Yeltsin is elected speaker of the Russian Parliament.

July 12, 1990: Officially leaves the Communist Party

1991

June 12: Yeltsin is elected first president of the Russian Federation with 58 percent of the vote.

Aug. 19-21: Coup attempt against Gorbachev; Yeltsin heads resistance to communist putschists.

Dec.: Gorbachev and Yeltsin agree to dissolve the Soviet Union.

1992

"Shock therapy" reforms trigger rampant inflation (over 1,500 percent in 1992) and shrinking gross domestic product figures in Russia.

Oct.: Voucher privatization of Russian state industry launched.

Dec.: Amid political and economic turbulence, Yeltsin forced to sack reformist Premier Yegor Gaidar in favor of the more centrist Viktor Chernomyrdin.

1993

March: Parliament maneuvers to try and impeach Yeltsin.

April 25: Russians give Yeltsin confidence vote in nationwide referendum.

July: Central Bank 'withdraws' old bank notes virtually overnight, triggering chaos.

Sept.-Oct.: Yeltsin dissolves hostile, Soviet-era Parliament, flouting constitution. Deputies barricade themselves in until he sends in the tanks and batters them into submission.

Dec. 12: Russia's first legislative elections for new chamber to replace suspended Parliament. Ultranationalists and Leftists score well.

1994

March 1: Yeltsin accepts amnesty for those involved in October uprising.

Dec. 11: Russian troops pour into Chechnya to quell independence drive.

1995





June 18: Russians, Chechens agree cease-fire which breaks down after July 30 demilitarization accord fails to stick.

July 11: Yeltsin succumbs to first of two heart attacks within four-month period.

Oct. 26: Second heart attack leaves Yeltsin convalescing for two months.

Dec. 17: Legislative elections give communist-led left clear ascendancy in Parliament.

Dec. 29 Yeltsin returns to Kremlin.

1996

Feb. 15: Yeltsin announces candidacy for presidential elections.

March 31: Yeltsin launches peace initiative for Chechnya, welcomed by the United States the next day.

May 16: Yeltsin frees Russian conscripts from the Chechen nightmare and scraps national service altogether from 2000. Offers pensioners compensation for lost savings.

May 27: Yeltsin meets Chechen separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, announcing a cease-fire from June 1.

May 28: Yeltsin makes surprise trip to Chechnya.

June 10: Yeltsin agrees to pull out Russian forces from Chechnya by the end of August and delay elections in the separatist republic.

Fatigue Sets Into Nigerian Vote Protests

LAGOS (Reuter) — Three years after the army annulled a presidential election and precipitated a crisis that threatened to tear Nigeria apart, the protests seem finally to be fading.

The phrase "June 12" has passed into popular usage, instantly summoning up memories of the election anniversary and the political turmoil that followed.

In 1994, on the first anniversary of the annulled poll, strikes and riots crippled Nigeria. Last year the intensity of protests was far less.

And this year, the anniversary on Wednesday passed with only a token protest. Driving rain and a heavy police presence on the streets nullified threatened rallies by opposition groups.

"The 'struggle' has grown tamed. Only muffled grunts are heard," wrote the *Independent* newspaper in a major article by four of its senior reporters to mark the day.

While radical pro-democracy groups called for street protests to mark June 12, the leaders of the main opposition movement Nadeco called only for fasting and prayers.

"People say that this is a measure of the fatigue that has set in," wrote the four journalists.

Lagos-based diplomats agreed that the tempo of the battle against the annulment of the vote had waned.

"The situation is definitely not the same as in 1994 when chief Moshood Abiola declared himself president," said one.

Abiola, one of Africa's richest men is widely believed to have won the poll which was to restore Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation with about 100 million people, to democracy.

He has been detained since June 1994 when he defied military ruler General Sani Abacha and proclaimed himself president.

An infantry general who seized power in November 1993 on the heels of the chaos unleashed by the election, Abacha appears through strong arm tactics to have contained the opposition and reduced it to merely issuing news releases to foreign media.

Many opposition figures are detained or imprisoned over an alleged coup plot last year, while others have fled abroad.

Abacha, meanwhile, is pressing ahead with his own plan which he says will restore democracy fully in 1998.

The opposition and Western nations opposed to his government have derided the plan, which kicked off with municipal polls in March. Leading politicians have formed groups ready to contest for power.

"Abacha specializes in war of attrition and for him the longer the crisis drags on the more he is bound to wear down the opposition," said one African diplomat.

The row that erupted over the hanging last November of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists convicted of murder, after a trial which the West viewed as flawed, has simmered on.

But sanctions invoked against Nigeria are relatively minor, and oil — the backbone of the economy — *continues to flow.*

Most goes to the United States, despite its denunciation of the West African country's human rights record, most recently summed up by Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights John Shattuck: "There is a reign of terror."

Inside Nigeria, senior politicians say the nation has no choice but to cooperate with the army to ease them out of power.

"We cannot disgrace them out of power," commented Don Etiebet, a former oil minister and possible presidential aspirant in 1998

No Invite? Hope You Understand: Cairo to Baghdad

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt said it hoped Baghdad "understands" why it was not invited to the Arab Summit to be held in Cairo this month aimed at healing the wounds left by Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, sources said Somalia would be invited to become the 21st participant in the summit, despite the fact that it has no recognized government amid its warring factions.

"We hope the Iraqi government understands the reasons for its absence from the summit," Osama al-Baz, the top political advisor to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, told journalists.

"We cannot ignore the truth that there are certain objections to Iraq's attendance. Of course that has nothing to do with the Iraqi people, we're talking about official Iraqi presence," he said.

"We hope for an improvement in the situation in the near future so that these objections will no longer exist," Baz added.

The summit, set for June 21-23, will be the first since just after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 and aims to end the inter-Arab divisions sparked by the invasion and by the peace process with Israel.

Arab leaders will try to define a common stand in face of any threat to the peace process after the victory of right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu in last month's Israeli elections.

Official sources said that Egypt's Foreign Ministry had sent an invitation to Arab League member Somalia to send its permanent representative to the league to attend the summit.



Australian Gangsters Weave Tale of Missing Hit Man

SYDNEY (Reuter) – It may not be Mafia-headquarters Palermo, Sicily, or the Chicago of Al Capone, but Sydney can weave a wickedly twisted gangster tale.

Hit man Christopher "Mr. Rent-A-Kill" Flannery has not been seen since May 9, 1985, when he left his luxury Sydney apartment carrying a passport and a trusty .38 pistol.

Is he alive or dead? The coroner's inquest into what happened to Flannery, 36, has now been running for two and a half years and has heard evidence from the who's who of Sydney crime, yet the truth seems as illusive as an honest gangster.

According to those in the know, Flannery has had a meat cleaver put through his head, been fitted with cement shoes, been minced in a tree cutter and scattered as fertilizer, garrotted and entombed in a building site, or shot by corrupt ex-police.

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Whatever the truth, it's a fair bet someone was out to get Flannery — a fit, suntanned man, with a penchant for open neck shirts and chunky gold jewelry, who reportedly notched up 14 kills at A$50,000 (U.S.$39,500) a hit.

In January 1985 Flannery survived a machine gun attack on his Sydney home and moved his family to the safety of a high-rise, inner city apartment.

His wife Kathleen, which the inquest has heard was the brains behind her husband, is convinced crooked police snatched her husband four months later and are linked to his murder. But can you believe a gangster's wife?

Kathleen told the inquest her car was boobytrapped with gelignite after her husband disappeared, but a police informer said it was a setup to gain sympathy and that she bought the explosives. In giving evidence, Kathleen's memory often failed, "Oh gee, oh gosh. I really can't remember," she often said.

But the Australia's National Crime Authority (NCA) in 1986 charged Sydney standover man "Tough" Tommy Domican, with attempted murder of Flannery, his wife and daughter, saying Domican was convinced the hit man was after him.

A "standover man" is a criminal who intimidates people with violence or threats of violence.

At Domican's trial in 1988, rapist and police informer Fred Many said Domican told him in prison that the first hit missed Flannery, but that he was now in a "cabbage cage in the water".

Domican was convicted and sentenced to 14 years jail, but Australia's high court later quashed the conviction, saying a jury might regard Many's evidence as worthless.

Domican, a regular spectator at the Flannery inquest, has denied involvement in the hit man's disappearance.

In 1987 NCA super-informant Frank Duggan said he knew Flannery's murderer and that the hit man's legs had been broken to fit into a small grave in an inner Sydney suburb. He never gave the name.

In 1993, convicted hit man Mark "Chopper" Read said in his memoirs a Melbourne friend put a meat cleaver through Flannery's head as he drove a car. The body was mulched in a tree shredder and used as fertilizer in the southern state of Victoria.

In 1994, a lobbyist for the poker (slot) machine industry said two industry figures paid to have Flannery hit because he was muscling in on their turf.

Convicted killer Arthur "Neddy" Smith told the NCA in 1994 that a disgraced policeman told him Flannery had to go because he was a danger to crooked cops. In his autobiography, Neddy said underworld rumor had it that Flannery was shot dead by ex-policemen.

The latest theory came from self-confessed former underworld debt collector Danial Pagge, who told the inquest last week that he saw Flannery shot dead at a Victoria racetrack in November 1985. Pagge said he would produce evidence, but has disappeared.

Some police believe Flannery was lured to a Sydney harbor boatshed on the pretext of inspecting a machine gun and then garotted and wrapped in tarpaulin and dumped in the harbor.

Officially, Sydney police simply say Flannery was lured to an unknown location, by unknown persons and executed.

But whatever happened to Flannery, one thing is certain — when "Mr. Rent-A-Kill" disappeared a gangwar which had left Sydney's street running with the blood of heroin gangsters such as "Spaghetti Tony" ended.

But whatever happened to Flannery, one thing is certain — when "Mr. Rent-A-Kill" disappeared a gangwar which had left Sydney's street running with the blood of heroin gangsters such as "Spaghetti Tony" ended.

"There'll be peace for five years after this week," a convicted drug dealer allegedly said at the time.

As for Flannery? The coronial inquest was to resume on July 15 for more tales from Sydney's underworld.



FLORENCE, Italy (June 12): Mafia boss Giuseppe Ferro of Alcamo, Sicily, is wheeled on a stretcher into the highly protected courtoom of the former prison of "Santa Bibiana," where the trial of Mafia bosses Ferro, Toto Riina and Luca Bagarella, accused of bomb attacks in 1993 in Florence, Milan and Rome, opened under heavy security measures in Florence.

(AFP PHOTO)

Vietnamese Rush to Modernize but Worry About Cost

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (AP) – Dinner used to be the start of relaxed family evenings in the Vo household. Now almost everyone has errands, classes, parties or night jobs.

"We tried to schedule dinner for 5 p.m. so we can have 20 minutes when we're all together," said Vo Thi Bao Huong, the eldest daughter. It isn't working. Often the only time the family of six is under one roof is when they're asleep.

"Society is very complicated these days," said the patriarch, 64-year-old Vo Ba Ha. "When I was young, people tended to live more in the family and spend more time together. Now, people have more things to do, more people to meet. I think it's not as good."

Huong's fiance, Pham Van Trac, who was talking enthusiastically about his night classes in English and business, rolled his eyes.

"You make a choice," he said. "You gain something, you lose something."

After years of isolation and stagnation, Vietnam has chosen to invite foreign investors and tourists, introduce market competition and build a modern, industrial society. This southern city once called Saigon has led the charge — and borne the brunt of the inevitable high-speed collision between old and new.

Cellular phones, computers and automobiles have stepped up the pace of life. Jobs have become more competitive and less secure. Distinctions in dress and lifestyle have become more glaring as an envied minority gets very rich.

Some blame the nationwide preoccupation with getting ahead for a decline in "traditional values" and increase in juvenile delinquency, violent crime and divorce — still much less common than in the West.

Older Vietnamese realized with dismay how much times have changed when a mob of youths pelted police with stones and Molotov cocktails one night in December. The youths, angered by Vietnam's loss in a regional soccer tournament, had been racing their motorbikes through city streets when police tried to stop them. At one time, police authority was inviolable.

Most Vietnamese pride themselves on a society that is orderly and family centered. Now communist veterans, scholars and social workers alike are wondering if there is an antidote for the hectic lifestyle, commercialism and social ills that seem to come with modern industrial life.

A typical installment in the new debate appeared in the army newspaper *Quan Doi Nhan Dan* under the headline: "Family Life Disrupted."

"The increasing value put on money and personal gratification ... has undermined moral standards," wrote Le Thi, retired director of the Scientific Research Center on Family and Women. "Quarrels over property are increasing. Consumerism prompts expenditure in excess of earnings ... with failure to obtain goods leading to stealing and cheating."

A sampling of ordinary families in Ho Chi Minh City found most agree that as society becomes more prosperous, they feel under pressure to keep up.

Trac and Huong are saving for their wedding, but Trac said he is strongly tempted to dip into the nuptial nest egg. "When we go to restaurants and I'm on my second-hand motorcycle, I feel embarrassed," he said.

"Society is very complicated these days. When I was young, people tended to live more in the family and spend more time together. Now, people have more things to do, more people to meet. I think it's not as good."

Trac, 26, spends his free time at Huong's home because of running arguments with his own parents. The first person in his farm family to graduate from college, he is assistant to the manager of a joint-venture construction company. His parents are proud, he said, but don't understand why he can't spend nights and weekends at home instead of taking courses.

They pray for luck — hard work doesn't seem to be enough.

"It's very competitive. People from all over the country come here to find work," he said. "If you want to rise up from the crowd, you have to study. You must speak English."

Le Minh Chieu, 35, straddles the new and old worlds. Trained as an engineer, for years he worked on state power projects.

"I spent my youth devoting myself to country. I made hardly enough to feed myself," he said. Idealism and professional pride kept him going.

"Sometimes we got a new machine and had to learn about it, or a machine broke. I remember all the times we stayed up all night to figure it out."

Now he puts in long hours at a foreign trade company, saving for his daughters' education and a bigger house. "I am willing to work hard for a good wage," he said.

Those in their 40s and 50s are often ill-equipped to take advantage of new opportunities and resent the single-minded ambition of the young. They came of age during the Vietnam war, when young men from north and south were drafted into their respective armies, and dreams had to be put aside.

The generations clashed spectacularly at a Saturday night gathering of the sentiment exchange club, one of many new singles clubs offering "modern" matchmaking. The speaker was a high school principal in her 50s.

"When I was your age, we had to work very hard," she lectured several dozen restless twentysomethings. "You should be grateful. You should do your best to preserve what your parents and the older generation sacrificed their lives to achieve."

Thuy, a 24-year-old college senior with a ponytail, suppressed giggles.

"On a Saturday night people want to hear about something interesting," she said. "We can hear about the Communist Party at school."

The party is urging more preaching on patriotic and Marxist themes, to counter what it calls Western-style individualism and consumerism. It recently ordered nationwide raids on shops to seize foreign videos and music.

Some scholars want schools to teach Confucianism, with its emphasis on discipline and respect for elders.

But the broad public of uneducated shopkeepers, factory workers and peasants has turned instead to folk religion. Thousands of worshipers mob crumbling temples on holidays, jostling to burn paper offerings before statues of historical heroes and kings.

They pray for luck — hard work doesn't seem to be enough.

Do Thi Minh Dung, a seamstress, said she already rises at 5 a.m. and works until midnight. She sees no way of earning enough to escape from the shabby two rooms she shares with 12 family members.

"I want to be someone of the wealthy class, not average," she said. "I want my own house. It has to be large and open."

Single at 35, she pins her hopes on finding a rich husband.

Her mother is more practical.

"Sew faster," she advised.

Microsoft Launches Offensive on Business Intranet Market

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Software giant Microsoft announced Thursday it would launch an offensive on business networks, in a new attack on arch rival Netscape Communications.

At a meeting of 300 business executives in San Jose, California, Microsoft announced a series of new products for closed business networks — known as intranets — that would take advantage of technology now used for the Internet.

The products, including a search guide and site manager, will be incorporated into Microsoft's most widely used business software, including Windows NT.

The new strategy is aimed at extending Microsoft's dominance of personal computers to business networks, which normally use open architecture software that make them compatible with other systems.

Microsoft is boasting of its "seamless" transitions from desktops to Internet and intranet using its Windows systems.

Intranets are considered one of the fastest growing areas of the computer industry.

Netscape, industry leader in software for Internet browsing, holds a strong position in intranet software market.

The battle between Microsoft and Netscape is likely to determine whether Microsoft can maintain its dominance in the fast-growing computer software field as users shift from stand-alone desktops to networks.

In expectation of the Microsoft announcement, Netscape said on Wednesday that 92 of the top 100 U.S. companies used Netscape software for their internal networks.

According to Zona Research, the market for intranet servers — which manage data networks — has grown from practically nothing in 1995 to an estimated $3 billion this year.

The think tank predicted the market would jump to $13 billion by 1999.



Censorship Still an Issue 25 Years After Pentagon Papers

NEW YORK (Reuter) — As President Bill Clinton was attacking a court ruling blocking censorship in Cyberspace, the 25th anniversary of a momentous clash on press freedom passed almost unnoticed.

It was on June 13, 1971 that *The New York Times* began publishing details of the Pentagon papers, a 7,000-page secret official history of the U.S. role in the Vietnam war that many said proved that successive presidents misled the American people on the course of the war.

For two days, President Richard Nixon let *The Times* print embarrassing disclosures about the Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson administrations. Then he sent his lawyers to court to stop further stories, saying they would cause "irreparable injury to the defense interests of the United States."

It was the first time in U.S. history that a president tried to exercise prior restraint on a newspaper and a New York judge issued a restraining order on *The Times*.

Within days, the *Washington Post* obtained a copy of the papers and began publishing. When a court stopped it as well, newspapers in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and St. Louis began publishing. The issue went to the Supreme Court, which sided with press freedom.

A quarter of a century later, while historians, press critics and participants still argue over the Pentagon papers, a new freedom of speech issue is expected to head to the Supreme Court — whether it is constitutional for the government to slap curbs on indecent material on the Internet.

A special three-judge federal Appeals Court panel in Philadelphia ruled that the government could not censor what it called "the most participatory marketplace that this country — and indeed the world — has yet seen."

Clinton immediately defended the curbs as a way of protecting children from on-line obscenity.

The Times, in its headline 25 years after it struck its blow for press freedom, said "ruling by panel moves the first amendment into a new era."

David Rudenstine, a New York law professor and author of "*The Day the Presses Stopped*," a new account of the Pentagon papers, says the battle between *The Times* and other newspapers and the government became a high water mark for democracy. At the same time it laid the foundation for the destruction of the Nixon administration.

"Two unelected institutions of American life — the Supreme Court and the press — combined to strengthen democracy", he told Reuters. He said the publication of the papers also led to the unraveling of the Nixon administration, which created the White House Plumbers Unit to stop such leaks from occurring again.

The "Plumbers" broke into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist to find incriminating material about the man who leaked the papers to *The Times*, and that action set the stage for a series of illegal actions that led to the 1972 Watergate break-in, which ultimately forced Nixon to resign in disgrace.

Rudenstine said his research produced one surprising result — the government's argument that National Security could be harmed was not a false claim. The Pentagon papers did have information that could have compromised diplomatic efforts to end the war, embarrassed allies and kept prisoners of war from being released, but "nothing harmful was ever published."

Chernobyl Nuclear Plant Has No Money to Buy Fuel

KIEV (Reuter) — Ukraine's Chernobyl nuclear power station said it had no money to buy Russian fuel and may soon have to cut capacity or shut down.

"The station could soon be forced to stop. This could also affect safety as you cannot operate reactors by shifting their capacity up and down," station spokesman Valery Idelson told Reuters by telephone.

"We could be forced to reduce capacity to 80 percent."

Idelson said the plant, site of the world's worst nuclear accident 10 years ago, was owed $50 million in unpaid electricity bills. Two reactors still functioning at the plant produce five percent of Ukraine's electricity.

"Russia supplies us with fuel at lower than world prices but will no longer do so without advance payment," Idelson said.

"The last shipment of fresh fuel was received about six months ago and we still haven't paid for it. According to our calculations, reactor No. 1 will run out of fuel within a month and No. 3 within 2-1/2 months."

Ukrainian officials said earlier this year that shortages of fuel could shut down the plant but Russia maintained supplies and allowed it to keep operating.

Western countries have promised aid and credits worth $3.1 billion to enable Ukraine to meet President Leonid Kuchma's commitment to shut down Chernobyl by the year 2000.

But after largely unproductive talks this month with wealthy Group of Seven (G-7) countries, Ukraine's top negotiator, Environment Minister Yuri Kostenko, said it might reconsider the promise.

He said Kiev needed $840 million immediately — to complete construction of two reactors at other plants that would be required to compensate for power now produced at Chernobyl.

Kostenko, who has pledged to close reactor No. 1 by October, held talks with U.S. officials in Washington on how to proceed with the closure, Ukrainian radio reported.

Ukraine views the United States and Canada as its main allies within the G-7 and is deeply suspicious of France, the current G-7 chairman.

Chernobyl's fourth reactor exploded and caught fire on April 26, 1986, spewing radiation over most of Europe and contaminating huge stretches of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. Authorities in Ukraine say it caused at least 4,300 deaths.

Greco-Turk Spat Is Being Resolved



SOLANA

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The latest spat between Greece and Turkey over disputed territorial rights in the Aegean Sea is on the way to being resolved, NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana said.

"I am going to continue to do whatever I can for a relaxation of the atmosphere," Solana said, adding he was "optimistic" that a solution could be found.

In their latest row, Greece accused Turkey of trying to wrest away the Island of Gavdos, off Crete, after a Turkish officer suggested it be excluded from a NATO exercise.

Ankara later said its officer's statement was not politically motivated.

The two eastern Mediterranean nations almost came to blows in January over an uninhabited outcrop in the Aegean Sea, before the United States intervened to ease tensions.

Greece appealed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization — whose ministers have been meeting in Brussels — not to remain indifferent to its problems with Turkey.

In Athens, Prime Minister Costas Simitis put pen to paper to urge Western and Russian leaders to do their part.

In letters to U.S. President Bill Clinton, Russia's Boris Yeltsin and European Union leaders, Simitis asked that they help uphold "peace and stability in the (eastern Mediterranean) region."

"Turkey is openly putting in doubt all legal regulations touching on Greek claim on islands in the Aegean Sea and the international boundaries to be found there, he wrote.

"This is not only a flagrant violation of general and specific parts of international law, but also a source of serious threats to stability in this particularly sensitive region," he added.

Since Greece and Turkey almost went to war in January over a rocky outcrop, Ankara has laid claim to 3,000 islands, islets and rocks, Simitis said.

His letter, made public by his government spokesman, was also sent to the presidents of the European Commission and the European Parliament, and to the secretaries general of the United Nations and NATO.

Mubarak Recommends Abolishing Penalties on Journalists



CAIRO, Egypt (June 12): Ibrahim Nafie (R), head of the Egyptian Journalism Union, speaks to journalists at the union headquarters in Cairo. The union asked to stage a peace walk to the Parliament June 15 before the Parliament discusses the year-old press law imposing strict punishments for libel, which journalists say aims to suppress criticism of the government.

(AFP PHOTO)

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak has recommended abolishing stiff penalties for defamation and libel that Egyptian journalists had called an attempt to muzzle their criticism.

The decision, which still must be approved by Parliament, would largely end a yearlong fight between the government and journalists over a law that dramatically increased fines and sentences.

It was a victory for journalists who had nicknamed the legislation "the law of assassination of freedom of the press."

"Most of our demands have been met, 90 percent," said Ibrahim Nafea, head of the Egyptian Journalists' Union and editor-in-chief of Cairo's leading *Al-Ahram* newspaper. "We tried our best."

He said negotiations would continue with the government on clauses journalists still objected to, but he did not give details.

Issued a year ago, the law decreed prison sentences of up to five years and fines to up to $5,880 for journalists convicted of libel or slandering state officials and institutions. The old punishment had been three months in jail and a fine of $15.

An amended law had lessened prison sentences to a maximum two years but left the fines intact. Journalists criticized it as only marginally better than the original law.

Mubarak recommended that the penalties revert back to the original law — three months in jail and a $15 fine. Since Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party controls Parliament, the decision will in all likelihood become law.

"The government was keen to solve the problem and showed its seriousness," Nafea told the Associated Press.

Parliament was expected to begin discussions on Saturday.

Under the new law, authorities had already questioned, charged or sentenced 99 journalists, drawing criticism that the government was seeking to squelch attacks on government corruption.

It was not immediately clear how Mubarak's recommendation would affect those cases still in court.

Russia, Opposing Expansion, Offers Upgraded Ties

BRUSSELS (Reuter) — Russia said it was ready for closer political and military links with NATO, but made clear it was not dropping its strong opposition to alliance plans to expand into former communist Europe.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told his NATO opposite numbers Moscow wanted to upgrade relations in a number of areas and indicated its willingness to commit troops to any new peace force in Bosnia.

"We are ready to develop relations with a non-enlarged alliance in the interests of pan-European security," Grachev told the 16-nation alliance.

Grachev, a barrel-chested former paratrooper, proposed cooperating with NATO on joint weapons development, anti-proliferation measures, disarmament, ballistic missile defense, countering terrorism and drugs.

NATO officials said Russia had agreed to make its temporary liaison office at NATO's shape military headquarters in eastern Belgium a permanent one and set up similar links at other alliance command posts.

In return, Grachev said NATO could have personnel attached to the Russian Defense Ministry. "The message was: there are still differences on enlargement, but let's agree to differ...it is not going to stop other cooperation," one official said.

U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry said the decision to start institutionalizing Russia-NATO links, unthinkable only a few years ago, had crowned a 'remarkable day'.

Asked if Grachev had linked Russian cooperation in other areas and NATO enlargement, he said: "No. No linkage."

NATO countries welcomed the 'friendly, constructive' tone of the meeting, but said it had finally killed off lingering hopes Moscow was perhaps softening its stand on enlargement.

Britain's Defense Minister Michael Portillo said Grachev was 'strongly unenthusiastic' about the plan.

"He did not pull any punches," Portillo said.

A top NATO official said he ran through 'all the old arguments' against expansion, but other alliance sources said the meeting went as well as could be expected two days before the Russian presidential election.

NATO officials said before the meeting they expect any signal from Moscow that could be interpreted by opponents of President Boris Yeltsin as weakness.

Assistant U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said Russia had made it quite clear "both that it opposes enlargement and it is prepared to go forward with NATO cooperation".

NATO is due next year to name the countries with which it will start membership talks. Front-runners include the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

NATO diplomats said Russia had clearly "changed tactics but not the substance" of its opposition to enlargement.

"It is holding out carrots, there is no stick," said one source.

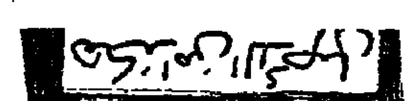
Allied capitals welcomed the Russian approach, saying dialogue would 0give them the opportunity to show Moscow that NATO in no way represented a threat.

A beaming Grachev later told reporters, Russia was now convinced of the West's desire for "deeper and closer contacts between us".

"I have come to the conclusion there is the aspiration for deeper and closer contacts between us," he said.

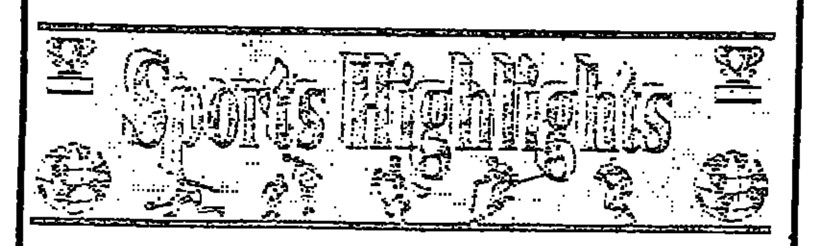
"On the basic idea we are one — that is to broaden and deepen relations with NATO on all military and political issues," he added.

NATO Secretary General Javier Solana said both sides shared the common aim of increasing security and stability in Europe and the world.



TEHRAN TIMES

JUNE 16, 1996



Tehran Times Service

MOTOR RACING

PARIS — Porsche is back at Le Mans, where its cars have won a record 13 times, with a brand new GT Racer aimed at challenging last year's winners McLaren in the world's most prestigious endurance race starting on Saturday.

The 911 GT1, which was just a pencil line less than a year ago, will start a race for the first time on the famed track and Porsche race director Herbert Ampferer said he believed they had a chance of winning.

TENNIS

STAMFORD, Connecticut — Monica Seles has officially entered next week's Women's Grass Court Tournament in Eastbourne, England, the women's tour has announced.

It will be her first appearance at the event which has been running for more than 20 years.

GOLF

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Michigan — Former champion Payne Stewart and former bank teller Woody Austin shot three-under 67s early on Thursday to take the first-round of the U.S. Open — and nobody caught them.

Stewart, the 1991 Open champion, survived a couple of 'ugly' holes in an uneven round while Open Rookie Austin made 15 pars — interrupted by three consecutive birdies — to catch him on a warm, sunny day.

GOLF

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Michigan — It was a relatively soft day for scoring at Thursday's opening round of the U.S. Open Golf Championship, but it was a particularly bad day for two players from down under.

Australian Ian Baker-Finch, who has gone drastically downhill since winning the 1991 British Open, shot the worst score of the day, a 13-over-par 83 that was certain to extend his recent streak of missed cuts on the U.S. Tour to 30 in a row.

NBA

SEATTLE — "Yesterday was yesterday. It was a bad day at the office," Michael Jordan said Thursday.

The Chicago Bulls superstar dismissed the significance of his poor showing in the Seattle Supersonics' 21-point win in game 4 of the NBA finals.

BASEBALL

BOSTON — John Valentin tied the game with a home run and Alex Delgado won it with a two-out single as the Boston Red Sox rallied in the 10th inning for an 8-7 victory over the Texas Rangers Thursday.

The Red Sox also rallied for two runs in the bottom of the ninth to send the game to extra innings, but Texas grabbed a 7-6 lead in the 10th on an rbi grounder by Ivan Rodriguez.

SOCCER

NEWCASTLE — Romania confirmed on Friday that they will be lodging an official protest to UEFA about the 'goal' they scored, but which was not given, during their 1-0 Euro 96 Group B defeat by Bulgaria on Thursday.

An official letter of protest would be handed to UEFA later on Friday, following meetings of Romania's Soccer Federation officials at the squad's hotel near Durham, team spokesman Radu Timofte said.

SOCCER

PRESTON — Russian defender Yevgeny Bushmanov has been forced out of Euro 96 after injuring his ankle in the 2-1 Group C defeat by Italy on Tuesday.

Birmingham Chases French Striker Papin

BIRMINGHAM, England (Reuter) — English first division Birmingham City hopes to sign French international striker Jean-Pierre Papin from Bayern Munich, manager Trevor Francis said on Friday.

Francis said he had had talks with the 32-year-old former World Cup player, who has been out of favor with the German club.

"I am in negotiations with a player you are probably aware of — Jean Pierre Papin," Francis told journalists. "I will continue to pursue the matter over the next few days.

"I am aware of the fee that Bayern wants and the player's financial demands, although nothing has been agreed."

Francis on Friday completed the free transfer signing of central defender Steve Bruce from Manchester United, who completed the league and cup double last season.

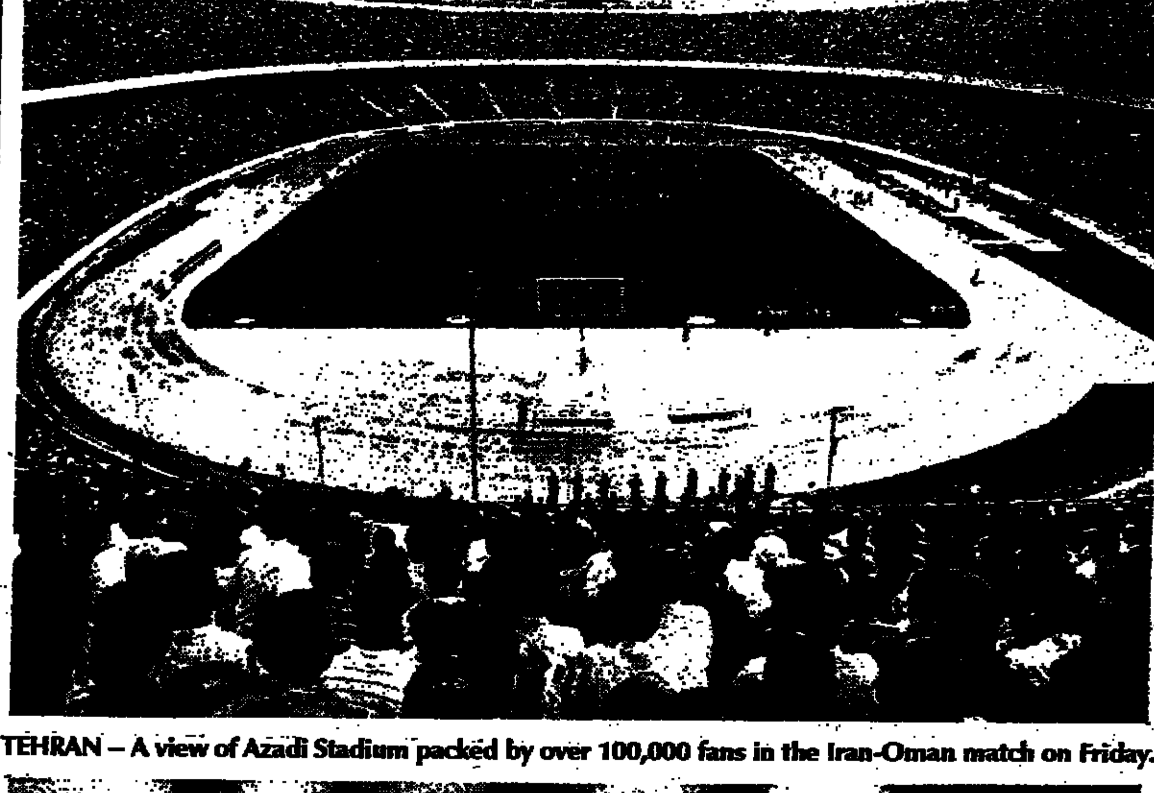
Janet Evans Wins 400 Freestyle

MISSION VIEJO, California (AP) — Janet Evans, preparing to compete in her final Olympics next month at Atlanta, won a 400 freestyle contest Friday.

Evans posted a time of 4 minutes, 17.18 seconds in the swim meet of champions at Mission Viejo Aquatics Complex. Following her in 4:20.75 was Jennifer Parmenter and in third was Sachiko Yamada of Japan in 4:21.31.

Evans won the 800 freestyle Thursday in 8:41.72. Yamada was second in 8:47.82 and countrywoman Noriko Maekawa was third in 8:51.84.

A meet record was broken in the men's 200 backstroke. Brad Bridgewater, 23, swam in 2:01.36 besting Derya Buyukuncu's 1994 record of 2:01.77.



TEHRAN – A view of Azadi Stadium packed by over 100,000 fans in the Iran-Oman match on Friday.



TEHRAN – Hugged by his teammates, Ali Daei, the best scorer of Asian Cup Qualifiers Group 5, shouts jubilantly after scoring Iran's first goal in the fifth minute. Hamid Estili headed the second goal in the 86th minute to beat Oman 2-0.

Abbas Kowsari — Tehran Times

Muster Extends Run on Grass; Becker, Edberg Advance; Stich Out

LONDON (AP) — Thomas muster, playing some of the best grass-court tennis of his career, rallied to beat Mark Woodforde in three sets Friday to reach the semifinals of the Queen's Club Tournament.

The top-seeded Austrian won only one game in the first set but lifted his game in the second and third to overcome the ninth-seeded Australian 1-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Also advancing was No. 2 Boris Becker, who reached his sixth Queen's semifinal in 11 years by downing Australia's Patrick Rafter 7-5, 6-4 - and No. 14 Stefan Edberg, who defeated American Todd Martin 5-7, 6-4, 6-2.

In the other quarterfinal match, No. 4 Wayne Ferreira defeated French Open runner-up Michael Stich of Germany 6-7 (7-1), 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

In Saturday's semifinals, Edberg faces Muster and Becker faces Ferreira.

While Becker has won 101 matches on grass in his career, Friday's win was just the fourth ever on grass for Muster. The clay-court master is trying to prove himself on grass for Wimbledon, where he has never advanced past the first round.

Muster looked lost as Woodforde, an accomplished grass-court player, took the first set in just 20 minutes.

"I got a lesson in the first set and played very well in the second and third," Muster said. "I didn't take everything out of my bags when I arrived at my hotel. My expectations weren't really high, but the weather favors me. The courts are dry and the bounce is good."

Muster denied having sworn at Woodforde during the match.

"I say many things to myself out there. I call myself a few things when I play, but never my opponent," he said.

Muster settled down in the second set and broke in the 12th game with a forehand pass to even the match.

The third set included a spectacular 16-shot rally that ended with an overhead backhand volley winner by Muster.

Muster took control in the eighth game when he hit a perfect forehand topspin lob to break for a 5-3 lead. He leaped into the air and shouted jubilantly.

Muster served out the match in the next game, hitting an ace to end the contest.

In another quarterfinal, there were five service breaks in the first set as Becker and Rafter both struggled to hold serve.

In the 10th game of the second set, Rafter had four break points but failed to convert as Becker served out the match.

"It was not that pretty but it was very windy out there especially in the first set," Becker said. "But the second set was better and there were two great games to finish. Reaching the semis again is perfect Wimbledon preparation for me."

The 30-year-old Edberg, the two-time Wimbledon champion who is retiring after this season, disposed of No. 6 Martin after beating No. 3 Goran Ivanisevic the day before.

Michael Johnson Expects to Run the 400 in London

ATLANTA (Reuter) — Despite having his invitation to run the 400 meters at the July 12 London Grand Prix meeting revoked, world champion Michael Johnson said Friday he expects to compete in the event.

"We have a contract and I expect them to honor their contract and I feel confident that I will be running there," Johnson said at a news conference prior to the start of the U.S. Olympic athletics trials.

"I've held up my end of the bargain and feel confident that they will as well," Johnson said of British organizers.

British athletics spokesman Tony Ward said Johnson had been denied permission to run the 400 meters because it would be 'demoralizing' to British runners, coming so close to the Atlanta Olympics.

"We'd be delighted for him to run in the 200 meters, but there is no invitation for him to run in the 400 meters," Ward said from the British trials in Birmingham on Friday.

"The feeling was that the domestic 400 meters would be an exciting event on its own, and there was no need for the British runners to get blown away in the last meet before the Olympics," Ward admitted.

The London Grand Prix meet is scheduled one week before the start of the Atlanta Olympic Games, where Johnson is expected to attempt an unprecedented double win at 200 and 400 meters. He is the reigning world champion at both distances.

Asked about the controversy on Friday, Johnson saib: "I think that will take care of itself over the next couple of weeks, and I feel confident that I will be running in England."

